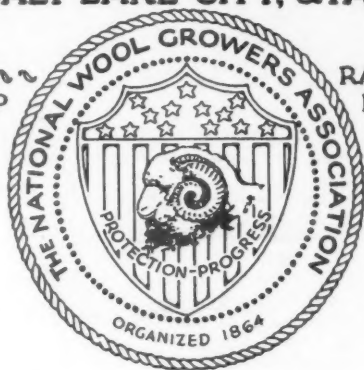


# *The* NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS OF  
AND ACTIVITIES OF SHEEP

TO NON MEMBERS - UNITED  
FOREIGN



RANGE AND MARKET CONDITIONS  
RAISERS ORGANIZATIONS

STATES & CANADA \$1.50 PER YEAR  
\$2.00 PER YEAR



Vol. XVIII. No. 5.

May, 1928

What Some of the Eastern Retailers Have to Say About the  
New Methods of Cutting Lamb Carcasses

Wyoming Association President Accepts Challenge for  
Enforcement of Truth in Fabrics Law

Results of Idaho Cost Studies

A Leading Wool Growing County and Its Pioneer



**SALES OF SHEEP  
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The Denver Market**  
for the first four months of 1928 exceeded  
**650,000 Head**

The majority of these receipts were from northern Colorado feeders who are in position to market at many points. Buyers from all the larger packers as well as others are on the market.

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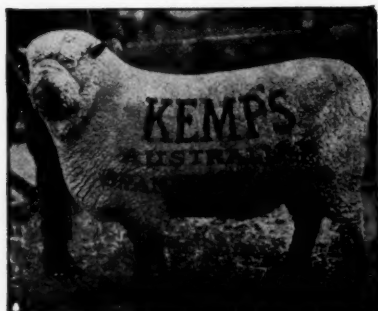
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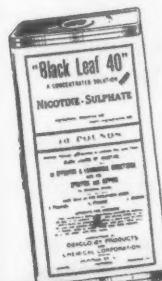
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During 1927 Pacific Lines employes of Southern Pacific made 4,482 suggestions for the prevention of accidents.

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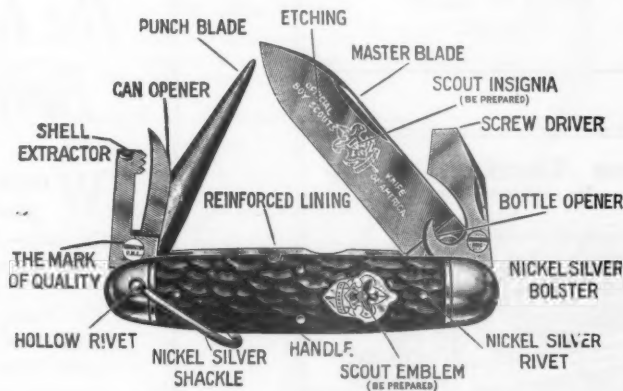
For two NEW subscriptions to the National Wool Grower, \$1.50 each, we will send either one of the knives shown below. One is the regulation scout knife and the other a very fine stock knife. The name "Remington" tells the story of their quality.



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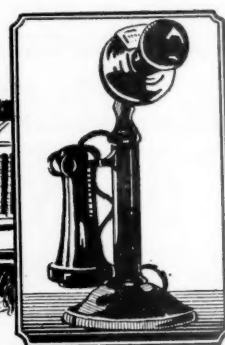
Fig. 1—Standard Rib  
Fig. 2—Double Rib Lock  
Fig. 3—First step before clinch  
Fig. 4—Clinch after clinch  
Fig. 5—Finishing Point

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The new self-piercing and self-clinching bristled STEEL tag that stays. For Cattle, Sheep and Hogs. Three sizes. Numbered and Lettered to suit. Write for description and prices.

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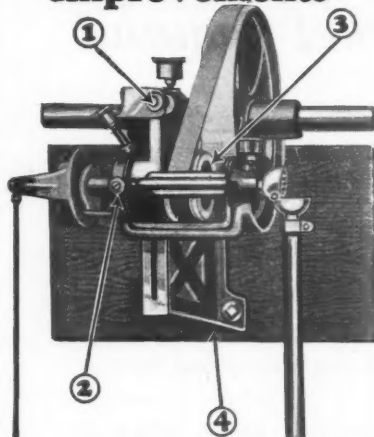


Shipped Knocked Down. Easy to set up  
Built By  
Sidney Stevens Implt. Co., Ogden, Utah

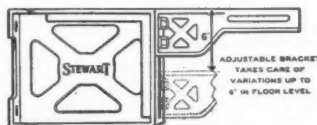


# The Most Satisfactory Shearing Gear Ever Built

## Note These 5 Big Improvements



- 1** Adjustable pulley frame. A very simple device enables you to move the pulley frame backward or forward on the main bracket to secure perfect tension on the belt without stopping the machines.
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- 4** Pulley frame bracket adjustable as to height. By means of a new, patented, STEWART feature, you can adjust the height of the machine on the main bracket to suit the individual requirements of the shearer.



The Patented 2-Piece Stewart Bracket.

- 5** More shearing room. The strong main bracket permits the driving gear and down tube to stand well away from the wall (18 inches) giving the shearer plenty of room for fast shearing.

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It is simple to erect—and once up, will give years of unflinching service with very little attention and practically no cost of upkeep.

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Practical, continuous shearing tests of years' duration in this country, Australia, New Zealand and South America have proven that this wonderful equipment is the most dependable shearing gear of all time. It is capable of fast continuous shearing throughout season after season.

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The pulley frame support bracket is adjustable to height from the floor and is strong and sturdy. It stands well out from the wall. The down tube hangs eighteen inches away from the wall, giving the shearer plenty of room for fast shearing. To stop or start his machine, the shearer simply pulls the cord of the shifter weight which is within easy reach.

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Choice small carcasses wholesale at from \$4 to \$5 a hundred-weight over the heavy ones, while live lambs, averaging from 80 to 85 pounds, bring as much as \$3 a hundred-weight more.

Yet lamb feeders contract to pay just as much per pound for big, rangy lambs as for small compact ones.

The big lambs come out of the feed lot weighing upwards of a hundred pounds. But as they do not furnish the exact kind of legs and chops the consumer wants, they have to compete with mutton.

It would be a wise move for feeders and breeders to revise their contracts so that the breeder will receive more, per hundred-weight, for the light lambs. This would encourage the production of the smaller and more profitable lambs. Breeders, in turn, should use small, compact, vigorous rams to produce these higher priced lambs.

Our experience has been that the producers net more out of the higher costing light lambs than from the low-costing heavy grades. Breeders and feeders can make more money by meeting the current market demand.

*F. Edison White*  
President

**ARMOUR AND COMPANY**  
U. S. A.

Write for free literature explaining reasons for and results of direct marketing. Address Armour's Livestock Bureau, Chicago.

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# THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOL. XVIII

MAY, 1928

NUMBER V

## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Published Monthly by the National Wool Growers Association Company, (Inc.)

F. J. HAGENBARTH, President

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Salt Lake City, Utah

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## THE EDITOR'S BOX

### The Trend of Wool:

Advices from Boston, London, and Australian markets show a continuation of strong prices for wool. Manufacturers have difficulty in moving goods at advanced prices but as is usual and necessary the effect of the whole situation must sooner or later be passed on to the consumer. As is well known the direct effect of a few cents rise in wool is comparatively insignificant in proportion to costs of cloth yardage.

Certainly nothing has developed so far in the way of higher prices or limitation of consumers' purchasing ability to call for any speculation or concern as to the final outcome. Values in all lines appear to be stabilizing themselves at levels in line with costs, supplies, and demands of the new business era.

### Late Wool Sales:

May sales of Montana and Wyoming wools on the range around 42 cents bear out the ideas of those who predicted a rise between the beginning of contracting and shearing time.

The recent higher sales are claimed to be above Boston price parity. The same was said of the early contracting figures which plainly were paid in the expectation of advances at Boston, which expected advances have been realized. Since the first of the year Boston quotations on Territory wools of the half-blood, three-eighths and quarter blood grades have had an average advance of 12 cents per clean pound. Boston quotations, however, still are below parity with foreign prices on some grades. Manufacturers' recent preference for domestic wools has been quite largely because they were obtainable on more favorable terms as a result of the lower price level established in the West by growers.

Such contracted wools as have reached the market are said to be netting profits for the dealers and some of the contracts

have been turned over for a profit in advance of shearing and delivery.

The growers who shaped their selling policy last winter in accordance with the dealers' idea of wool values and delayed selling until about the time contracted wools were being passed to manufacturers have done well.

### Wool Growers and Elections:

Traditionally the wool grower is a timid soul on the eve of a presidential election. In earlier times general business was likely to be effected by the results of elections. It took time for financiers and industrial operators to size up a new administration and decide where they stood. Then, too, there was always the possibility of a radical change in governmental policy as to the basis of admission of imports which was exceedingly unsettling to the interests of all those handling or affected by foreign goods or materials.

Since the establishment of the Federal Reserve System and with the strengthening of our business structure by other developments there is now much less of apprehension and retrenchment by business at the time of national elections. The possibility of radical change in the tariff still remains but as Congresses work now-a-days a crop often can be produced and sold between the time of a change of administration and the effectiveness of its change of policy. In 1924 the wool trade bought actively at strong prices immediately before election. There is now no prospects of any political developments to cause conservative and careful wool growers to lessen their confidence in their business.

### Coyotes and Bounties:

Considerable interest is developing in favor of uniform state predatory animal laws along the lines of the Utah Act of 1925. Wool growers appear to be almost evenly divided between the proposals of relying chiefly upon payment of



bounties to private trappers and the methods of the United States Biological Survey which in recent years has relied mainly upon the use of poisons. In contrast to most questions upon which opinion is divided, in this case nearly every individual who is concerned is very pronounced and outspoken one way or the other.

Opposition to the Biological Survey plan or its approval seems to depend quite largely upon the type of men employed in different localities. There can be no question as to the great value of the poisoning plan where the Survey man is capable and industrious. The trouble is that some of them are retained in the service after fair-minded persons are convinced of their lack of qualification. A man engaged in poisoning can destroy many times more coyotes than he could take in traps and he cannot find a very large proportion of the animals he kills. On this account salaried men are needed to ensure the greatest results.

Statements of the cost of destroying coyotes under the government poisoning plan are necessarily inaccurate. In this issue Mr. Bales mentions a cost of \$15 each in Oregon, evidently those reported as actually having been found. The Utah Survey office estimates the number killed at over three times the number counted.

The Survey's poison plan is necessary and will be helpful when properly followed and the right kind of men employed. The Utah plan of supplementing the poisoning work by payment of moderate bounties has the advantage of stimulating activity in trapping and hunting pups in the months that skins are not saleable to the fur trade.

Half-hearted poisoning campaigns and the payment of bounties without adequate safeguards will run away with large amounts of money without much reduction of sheep losses. The results obtained in some sections show what might be done generally. The new men in the Biological Survey headquarters are receiving some increase in appropriations. If they will strengthen their organizations in the states by some changes in personnel, more complete co-operation of stock owners will be ensured. Even in view of necessary economy by the national govern-

ment, the states, live-stock organizations and individuals, a stronger and more general campaign is needed. Concerted and harmonized action under both plans will be more effective and economical.

#### EVENTS FOR SHEEPMEN

California Ram Sale—June 5-6, Davis, Calif.

Annual Convention, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assn.—July 24-26, San Angelo, Texas.

Oregon Ram Sale—August 21, Pendleton, Oregon.

National Ram Sale—August 27-30, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Montana Ram Sale—September 26-27, Helena, Montana.

Northwest Wool Show—September 26-27, Helena, Montana.

Pacific International Live Stock Show—November 3-10, Portland, Ore.

Pacific International Wool Show—November 3-10, Portland, Oregon.

Live Stock Show—November 13-15, San Francisco, Calif.

Annual Convention, California Wool Growers Assn.—November 16-17, San Francisco, Calif.

#### CHANGES PROPOSED IN INTERMEDIATE CREDIT BANK LAW

Some changes in the operation of Federal Intermediate Credit Banks would be effected under the provisions of a bill introduced in Congress by Senator Steiwer of Oregon.

The first would be the creation of a separate board of five directors in each of the twelve districts to control the work of the banks instead of their being directed as at present by the same board that governs the making of loans upon lands. Two of the directors in the new district board proposed would be "appointed by the Federal Farm Loan Board and represent the public interest." The three local directors would be elected to represent the following groups: (1) The banking institutions receiving discounts from such bank; (2) the agricultural credit corporations, the incorporated live-stock loan companies, and the cooperative credit or marketing associations of agricultural producers receiving discounts from such bank; and (3) the cooperative associations receiving loans from such bank.

In addition to loans secured by warehouse receipts, shipping documents, or mortgages on live stock, co-operative associations could also use as collateral "real estate, or other tangible property owned by such association."

The present law requires that loans or discounts must have a maturity of not less than six months at the time made or discounted by Federal Intermediate Credit Banks. This would be reduced to sixty days.

Loans or advances could be made only to associations qualified under the Act of February 18, 1922, entitled "An Act to authorize association of producers of agricultural products." Senator Steiwer's proposed amendments also provide that "No discount shall be made under this section in any case in which the agricultural product or live stock securing the note, draft, bill or exchange, debenture, or other such obligation submitted for discount is subject to any agreement restraining its sale or other disposition (except such agreement as may be necessary to secure the payment of such note, draft, bill of exchange, debenture, or other such obligation); nor shall any discount be made under this section for an agricultural credit corporation unless at least a majority of the standing voting shares of the capital stock of such corporation is owned by agricultural or live-stock producers and the privilege of voting such shares is vested directly in such producers."

#### THE NEVADA FOREST GRAZING FEES

The Wool Grower is advised of an error in its statement last month regarding the Nevada grazing fees. It appears that the additional reduction which was reported as having been obtained as a result of Nevada's appeal to Washington against the action of the district forest officers had not actually been arranged and still is under negotiation.

The scale of fees finally approved on January 25, 1927, by Secretary Jardine called for an increase of 50 per cent in Nevada. Following representations of the Nevada Association to the district forest officers at Ogden, adjustments were allowed which reduced the fees to 33 per cent above the old scale. The Wool Grower reported that a further reduction of eight per cent was secured as a result of the appeal to Washington, but it appears that this last adjustment is not assured. As reported in the Nevada Stock Grower, the



Washington office approved alterations in the values of private land grazing as used in the Rachford appraisal, which alterations would result in the further eight per cent reduction. The Washington office, however, withheld final action to secure a report from the district officers, and it develops that those officers have a view of the Nevada appraisals of grazing on private lands that is different from that held during the consideration of the appeal at Washington and reductions beyond the 33 per cent increased scale still are under negotiation.

### SPECIAL TAX ON MIGRATORY STOCK HELD UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Montana Supreme Court recently rendered a decision holding unconstitutional a law enacted by the legislature of that state requiring payment of special taxes upon stock brought from other states for grazing in Montana.

Sheep owners resident in Washington objected to paying the special tax of ten cents per head on flocks shipped in for the forest grazing period. Washington laws require sheep owners to pay the full year's tax regardless of the length of time their sheep are outside of the state or of the amount paid while away. Some of the Washington owners reported their sheep to Montana county officials and offered to pay taxes at the regular rate in that state, but it was maintained that only the amount of the special tax could be accepted.

A group of the Washington owners joined in testing their case and suit was brought in the name of C. S. Hale against the Treasurer of Mineral County. The following includes some of the more pertinent parts of the court's decision:

The plaintiff, a resident of the county of Yakima, state of Washington, was the owner of 2,400 head of ewes which were assessed for taxation in Yakima county for the year 1927 in accordance with the laws of Washington, which provide for an assessment on the basis of the valuation of all personal property as of March 1st of each year. Plaintiff had a permit to graze sheep in the Lolo National Forest, which embraces portions of Montana and Idaho.

On June 1 the ewes were loaded on cars of the Northern Pacific Railway en route to Chicago, but by an arrangement with the railway company they were unloaded in Mineral county and placed within the National Forest to graze until September 1st. In their migra-

tions it was expected that they would graze in Idaho as well as Montana. A part of the Lolo National Forest is within Mineral county and the treasurer of that county threatened to collect the license tax of ten cents per head on all the sheep in accordance with the Act by restraining and selling them, and also proposed to arrest the plaintiff for violating the law. The plaintiff, claiming that the Act is invalid and unconstitutional, brought this suit against the treasurer to enjoin him from interference. A demurrer to the complaint, interposed by the county attorney of Mineral county, was sustained and plaintiff refusing to amend, judgment was entered for the defendant from which the plaintiff has appealed. \* \* \* \*

The legislative assembly at its last session passed an Act purporting to impose a license tax "on livestock coming into Montana from other states, and grazing therein, providing for collection of same and distribution of such tax," and fixing a penalty for violation of the Act.

That the Act under consideration is discriminatory is plain. This fact alone does not condemn it. (*State v. Loomis*, 75 Mont. 88, Pac. 344.) The question is, is the discrimination arbitrary and unreasonable? It seems to us that but one answer can be made. The Act applies only to livestock which are brought into Montana "to graze for any length of time whatsoever." In other words, it is directed against what may be termed foreign livestock. It does not apply to livestock brought into the state for any other purpose than to graze. For instance, it does not apply to sheep brought into Montana to be fed in pens. If this be called a distinction the legislature might, with equal reason, impose the tax upon sheep which graze up on the public range and omit the tax upon those which are fed Montana grown alfalfa hay. The Act does not, upon its face, apply solely to non-residents. Apparently it applies as well to residents who bring livestock into the state after the first Monday of March to graze in their own fields. "Although the Act does not in express terms confine its operations to livestock brought into the state for grazing purposes after the first Monday of March, by necessary implication it does so, and such a construction is commanded, otherwise the entire Act would be meaningless," as the court remarked in *Hayes v. Smith*, supra.

The Constitution provides that the legislative assembly may impose a license tax upon persons and corporations doing business in this state. It will be admitted that plaintiff in grazing his sheep within the state is doing business in this state; he is carrying on the sheep business. He would be carrying on that business if he were feeding the sheep in pens. Insofar as the taxing power is involved it is not perceived that there is any basis for differentiation here.

The decision in *Hayes v. Smith* again is directly applicable. In almost the precise language employed in that case we say we are unable to perceive any distinction which can be drawn between a flock of 2,400 ewes of a particular breed, size, description and value brought into this state after the first Monday of March for the purpose of grazing for any period, and a flock of the same size, breed, description and value brought into the state at the same time for the purpose of being fed in pens for the same length of time, and yet this statute assumes to render the first flock subject to the license tax, whereas the other is not. The attempted classification appears to be entirely arbitrary, and the unreasonable and unjust discrimination is apparent.

Enough has been said to demonstrate that the law can not be upheld, and while more might be said, we shall go no further.

The judgment is reversed with direction to the district court of Mineral county to overrule the demurrer.

### OPERATION OF THE UTAH PREDATORY ANIMAL LAW

A report of bounties paid in Utah in 1926 and 1927 was included in the article by Mr. Gedney, entitled "The Proposed Uniform Bounty Law," printed in last month's issue of the National Wool Grower.

In that article Mr. Gedney omitted mention of one important feature of the Utah law, namely, that the \$6 bounty on coyotes acts as an encouragement to hunters and trappers to work during the months that furs are not salable. This means more hunting for dens, as the bounty is paid on pups as well.

It was shown that in 1927 in Utah, bounty was paid on 5064 skins, principally coyotes, in a total amount of \$28,028.00 and that from the skins taken in the state realized \$10,331.75. The proceeds from sales of skins taken by the Utah officials when bounties are paid is converted back into the fund.

The Utah law requires an annual tax levy of five mills on the dollar of assessed valuation of sheep and goats and two mills on range horses and cattle. This levy provided a total of about \$65,000 for use in 1927. Under the law \$29,909 of this amount was spent in cooperation with the United States Biological Survey along with a federal allotment for the state of \$28,278. This cooperated campaign consisted chiefly of poisoning work and was conducted under the supervision of the Biological Survey in accordance with an agreement between the Survey and the State Board of Agriculture. The Survey estimated that no fewer than 10,000 predatory animals were destroyed by the 550,000 poison baits put out. The number actually found and counted was 2673.

### Provisions of the Utah Law

(Passed March 5, 1925. Approved March 10, 1925. In effect March 10, 1925).

#### STATE BOUNTY FUND

435. Tax for bounty fund—pro-rating fund—uses—limit. The board of county commissioners of each county in the State are hereby authorized and they shall, at the time of the

annual levy of taxes, levy a tax of five mills on the dollar on all sheep and goats, and two mills on the dollar on all range horses and cattle, according to the assessed valuation of the same, said tax to be collected as other taxes and paid into the fund known as the State bounty fund. The treasurer shall pay \$5,000.00 annually to the State board of agriculture to be used by it for the destruction of rabbits and rodents. He shall also set aside 50 per cent of the balance of said State bounty fund, including unexpended balances, to the State board of agriculture who shall spend the same in co-operation with the federal government for the eradication of rabies and the destruction of predatory wild animals. The above 50 per cent shall be set aside in a fund known as "Extermination wild animal control fund," June 1st and December 31st of each year. The balance of said fund to be paid out upon the State auditor's warrant as hereinafter provided; provided, that when said State bounty fund is exhausted there shall be no further warrants issued against the same, and the State auditor shall immediately notify the clerks of the several counties that said fund is exhausted, and they shall thereafter receive no application for warrants or issue certificates thereon.

436. Animals designated—rates. Bounties shall be paid for the destruction of the following designated animals, to-wit: Mountain lion or cougar \$15.00; grey, black or timber wolf, \$15.00; bear, \$10.00; for each coyote, \$6.00; for each lynx or bobcat, \$3.00.

437. Obtaining bounties—time—affidavit. Any person who desires to obtain the bounties provided for in Sec. 436 shall, within sixty days of the date of killing of such animals, present to the county clerk of the county in which said animals were killed, the entire hide or pelt of such animal with at least three full feet attached in such a marketable condition as to be salable, and in such a state of preservation as to enable the county clerk to identify such animals. The applicant shall subscribe his name to the following affidavit and bill of sale in the presence of the county clerk.

438. Accounts—payments. The county clerk of each county shall keep a true account of the warrants issued under this chapter and whenever the amount so issued reaches the sum of \$50.00, or more, the clerk shall present said account, sworn to by him as being true and correct, to the State auditor, who shall draw his warrant upon the State treasurer, who shall pay the same out of the State bounty fund.

439. Corroborative affidavit. At the time of presenting such skin and at the time of subscribing to the affidavit described in Sec. 437, the person presenting the same and claiming bounty thereon shall cause to be filed with the said county clerk, a corroborative affidavit, signed and sworn to by at least one reputable citizen and taxpayer of the county wherein such animal is said to have been killed and in which claim for bounty is made, which corroborative affidavit shall state that the party claiming such bounty is a reputable person and, to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in the affidavit of the claimant described in Sec. 437 are true.

440. Duty of county clerk—certificate. It shall thereupon be the duty of the county clerk to issue a certificate under the seal of his office, stating the number and kind of skins as herein provided for has been presented for identification, and stating the sum which said person is entitled to receive under the provisions

of this chapter. Said certificate shall be in substantially the following form, as may be required for the different kinds of animals: \* \* \* \*

441. Cancellation of skins—report to State auditor—disposal of skins. After such skin is presented, said county clerk shall immediately forward to the State auditor certified copies of the affidavits hereinbefore required, and the certificates made by him, together with the endorsements made by the other county officers, witnessing the identification and cancellation of such skin; such papers shall be forwarded by mail. It shall be the duty of each and every county clerk within the State to keep a record in a bounty book of all bounty certificates issued by him to whom, for what, and in what sums issued, and to preserve in his office all affidavits filed by claimants for bounty certificates. The county clerk shall immediately forward to the State board of agriculture, all skins so certified and the State board of agriculture shall preserve and from time to time sell the same to the highest bidder and deposit the money so received with the State treasurer who shall disburse the same by warrant of the State auditor in payment for bounties only. Before the skins are delivered to the purchaser all feet must be removed and destroyed by the board.

442. State auditor to draw warrant—time limit. Upon receipt of the papers in this chapter hereinbefore provided, the State auditor shall examine the same, and if he shall find the certificates, affidavits, and other papers are in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, he shall draw a warrant in favor of the person entitled to the same upon the State treasurer for the amount shown by said certificate to be due and shall deliver or transmit the same to the persons entitled thereto. Provided, that if the certificate issued by any county clerk in payment of bounty is not presented to the State auditor within two years from date, the same shall be cancelled and a State warrant shall not issue therefor.

#### S. 3841

A change in the status of the three principal forest reserves in Nevada would be effected under the provisions of Senate Bill 3841, recently introduced in Congress by Senators Oddie and Pitman.

The bill provides that the present areas of the Humboldt, Nevada, and Toiyabe national forests shall be redesignated as federal grazing reserves and hereafter be administered as such by the Department of the Interior. Holders of permits or other agreements with the Forest Service would be entitled to continue their present status and homestead, land and mineral laws would also continue without change.

The Nevada Land and Live Stock Association endorsed such a change at its last annual meeting. It is contended that but little of the Nevada land reserved as national forests has any material value for timber production and that it should not be administered under a policy or set of regulations primarily designed to

apply on timber producing lands. The bill does not attempt to define or outline the policy or methods to be followed in administration or determination of charges by the Department of the Interior.

#### OREGON WOOL GROWER FAVORS BOUNTIES ALONE

As a wool grower and a reader of the National Wool Grower for many years, I have been greatly interested in the proposal for a uniform bounty law. I have thought the matter over very carefully and believe it to be along sane and constructive lines. If passed by the various legislatures, the measure will do much in getting rid of the pesky coyote.

I can find nothing wrong with this proposed law except where it states that 50 per cent of the funds will go to the Biological Survey. Please do not understand me to be opposed to the Survey as it is now working. I believe that its men are doing some good work. Although it costs around \$15 a scalp for each animal taken, I still think that they are worth the price dead; and as a wool grower and taxpayer, I do not object to being taxed for the control of predatory animals. I do object, however, to having half of the proceeds go to pay a special select class of hunters that are now costing us more than twice as much money as is proposed to be paid to the rest of the trappers. I cannot see just where the Biological Survey fits into the scheme as it has been outlined. If the hunters in the employ of the Survey take as many hides as some of them report, they too can do very well with the six dollars proposed to be paid to the common trapper. I believe we should adopt the slogan "No work no pay," and if a trapper can't make a showing on his own hook, he should get off the perch. I want to go on record in saying that every scalp taken by the Biological Survey cost at least five times as much money as any bounty we ever had in the State of Oregon, and that I am heartily in favor of the proposed bounty law if the money is paid out to the trapper who gets the scalps, as I believe that to the victor should go the spoils of battle.

Chas. V. Bales  
Kimberly, Oregon.

# AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

## WYOMING

The month was cold and backward, with too much moisture for live stock in places. This was good for ranges to come, but the growth was too slow to be of much benefit until toward the end of the month, when warmer weather brought grasses along more rapidly. Shearing and lambing progressed without serious hindrances, and with no important losses. Feed has been scarce in much of the state, and the coming of grass will be welcomed generally. Cattle and sheep are in good condition as a general rule.

### Hammond

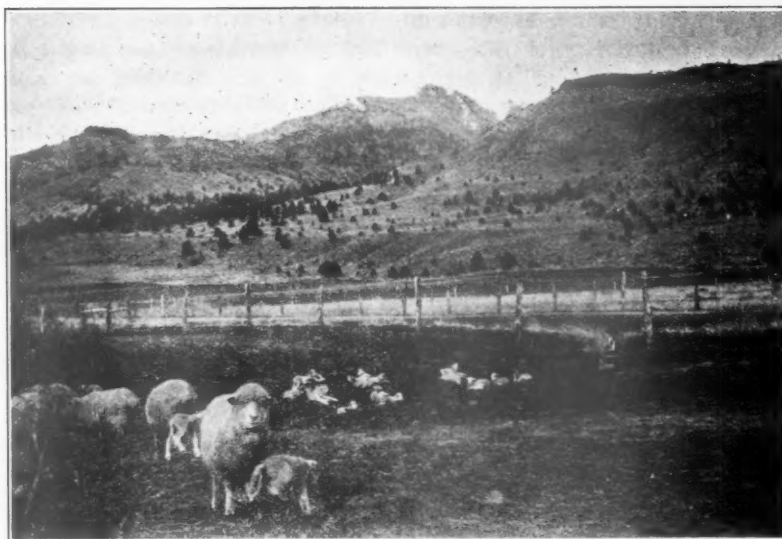
We had several light snows, with low temperatures during April, but the last few days have been nice. The grass is slow (May 1), but should be good when range lambing begins about the middle of the month. Hay feeding has about ceased. The results of the early lambing are about the same as in 1927.

Nearly all the wool has been contracted at 34 and 34½ cents, but there are no reports of contracts for lambs as yet. Old ewes with lambs have been purchased at \$14 a head recently.

Floyd E. Benway

### Buffalo

Sheep are in good condition here now (April 29). The weather has been fair during the month, but the night-time temperatures have been very low. Feed conditions are fair, but the grass we have now is from winter moisture and we need rain to start the spring grass. However, hope there will be no heavy storms dur-



Some of the Spring Drop on the Robinson Ranch, Modoc County, California.

ing lambing which commences the first part of May. I think that the percentage of lambs saved this year will be a little higher than it was a year ago, although it will, of course, be impossible to tell how we shall come out until the end of next month.

Transactions in shorn yearling ewes have taken place at \$11.40 a head.

Fifteen cents is the rate fixed for shearing; this includes board.

John Esponda

## MONTANA

Most of April was rather inclement, being cold and wet. Grasses consequently made slow advancement and only a few animals could be turned out to pastures or ranges; and those without supplemental feeds in most cases showed some shrinkage. No losses occurred, however, that were attributable to the weather. The closing week, and the first few days of May, were warmer and much more favorable; grasses made a good showing, and owing to the shortages of hay in many sections the new grass was especially welcome. A few animals are still in only fair shape, but generally they are in good or excellent condition.

### Hardin

Unsettled weather prevailed during April. Range lambing is about over here,

having commenced on April 25. It is estimated that the number of lambs saved is from 20 to 25 per cent under last year's crop.

Twelve and a half cents is the rate contemplated for both machine and blade shearing; board is included.

General conditions of the sheep industry here are good.

G. H. Dutton.

### Billings

Seasonable weather for this time of the year prevails in Yellowstone County. Grass is good and lambing is in full swing. The usual percentage of lambs is being raised so far and if no bad weather comes for the next three weeks, growers will raise close to last year's crop.

Herdsmen's wages are \$75 a month and lambers get \$3 to \$4 a day.

Feeding lambs have been contracted at 10½ to 11 cents per pound for fall delivery and white-faced mixed lambs, at 11½ to 12 cents a pound. Wool contracted at from 36 to 40½ cents.

Prospects look good for this year.

J. E. R.

### McAllister

From the first of April to the 21st, it was very cold and stormy, but since then we have had sunshine every day. The grass is getting a good start, but up to



this time (April 26) there has been no new grass. There should be an abundance of it due to our early storms.

Range lambing commences in this district around May 1. The early lamb crop is estimated at around 98 per cent in comparison with an 85 per cent crop last year. A few lambs have been contracted at 11 cents.

The wool here has all been contracted at prices ranging from 36 to 42 cents. The rate of pay for machine shearers is 15 cents per head with board and blade shearers get 12½ cents with board.

Henry W. Buford

### IDAHO

Cold, backward spring weather prevailed, the season being from ten days to two weeks behind the usual development. However, moisture has been ample in the soils generally, and a satisfactory growth of grass occurred, which was more rapid during the closing week. Sheep shearing and lambing progressed with little delay, and these activities are well along. Many cattle and sheep will enter the national forests early this month (May). Cattle and sheep have been turned onto local pastures, and some ranges, in places, but not as generally as usual at this date. Some animals are still on feed (May 4).

### OREGON

Alfalfa and clover meadows have made excellent growth in the last week or so over eastern counties, but cold, wet weather in the coast districts has retarded growth. Ranges generally are good, and feed abundant. Cattle are uniformly good, and many are moving to summer ranges. Lambing continues, but has been under unfavorable weather much of the month. However, there have been comparatively few losses. Goat shearing has progressed with only slight inconvenience.

### Vistillas

Feed is short around Vistillas at this, the early part of April, but it is very good in the lower valleys. Vistillas is very high in altitude and conditions which exist here do not govern the rest of the surrounding country.

Lambing is still in progress; none of the lambs have yet been contracted. No sales of ewes have been reported either. Some of the wools have been tied up at

33½ cents in the grease, with no deduction for tags. Shearing prices are not set here until June, but they usually run around 13 to 15 cents.

B. M. Adams

### Richland

April has been wet, cold and windy, but there is very good grass for the ewes, considering the weather.

Most of the lambs are dropped during the first ten days of February in this district. We had about a 120 per cent drop in some of the flocks that were lambing early.

Some old ewes with lambs have been sold for June first delivery at \$13.50.

The rate for machine shearers is 12½ cents with board.

Noble Holcomb

### WASHINGTON

Moderately cool weather prevailed much of the month, with showers at time-y intervals and of sufficient amount of water to keep spring grasses and other forage coming along satisfactorily. Live stock have continued in rather good condition, and spring work among sheep, such as shearing, lambing and transferring to open ranges, has been practically completed under generally favorable weather conditions.

### Asotin

We have had very cold weather during April, and the first half of the month the feed was poor, but it is better now. Our old grass rotted during the winter. We had good grass last fall, but freezing and thawing spoiled the green grass and our ewes got thin. Our lamb crop is about ten per cent under that of last year. There will be a good wool clip, however, with a light shrinkage.

Machine shearers will receive 12½ cents with board, or 17 cents without board when they furnish their machines and do their own grinding; from 12½ to 15 cents will be paid for blade shearers, board included.

W. C. Halsey

### Starbuck

Range lambing commences about March 25 in this section. Cold rains killed several twin lambs after marking. Feed is very good for this time of the year, and lambs should be in good shape before starting for the mountains by June

first. We estimate the lamb crop this year to be 110 per cent, which is five per cent under that of 1927.

Some old ewes with lambs have changed hands at \$14 a head. Twelve and a half cents with board will be the rate for machine shearers this year.

Dickinson Estate

### Toppenish

April was warm with plenty of moisture and considerable wind. Most of our lambing is done in feed yards during the first week of February. We estimate the crop this year to be about 130 per cent of the number of ewes lambing.

The range is now in fine condition. Shearing is nearly over and all shorn bands are on the range and on their way to the hills. The wool is nearly all shipped; some consigned and some sold at from 31 to 35 cents. Fifteen cents a head, board included, was paid for shearing this season.

The above information is for the Yakima Indian Reservation. We have about 40,000 head on our range belonging to eight or nine different outfits; the reservation owns no sheep.

E. W. Estep

### CALIFORNIA

Range forage and domestic pastures are in good to excellent condition, having had ample precipitation in most sections, with warmth sufficient to promote rapid growth. However, more rain would help in some southern sections. Fairly good first cuttings of alfalfa are reported. Dry pastures in San Diego county have increased the fire hazard in the past few days. The weather has been excellent for young lambs in Humboldt County. Shearing has been completed at Bend, with an excellent wool clip. Grass is abundant and cattle are doing well at Graton. The range is unusually good in the Mount Hamilton area due to good rains in the winter and spring. Hill pastures are very short at Gonzales.

### Camarillo

In December we had good rains which brought an abundance of good feed early in the season, but during March and April we had no rains, and winds have dried the feed too soon.

Our lambing starts about December

(Continued on page 44)



# A Discussion of Some Conditions in the Lamb Markets

A Part of the Last Convention Discussion of Affairs at the Lamb Markets

During the fall of 1927 the officers of the National Wool Growers Association made inquiries regarding a practice of selling lambs "at the market" which it was claimed was being followed by some commission houses.

The association had learned that on some occasions consignments of lambs are weighed and delivered to the packers with the understanding that the price would be agreed upon later in the day and would be in line with what was later paid in actual, regular sales.

The matter was discussed informally with a representative of the Live Stock Exchange at Chicago and later was considered in conferences between a representative of the exchange and officers of the Packers and Stock Yards Administration, and it is reported that the Administration may require that no consignments may be delivered by commission houses unless the price has been finally made and marked upon the scale ticket when the consignment is weighed.

This practice of selling "at the market" was one of the numerous questions considered by the Lamb Marketing Committee in preparing its report which was submitted to the annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association at Ogden last January.

The chairman of the convention committee on lamb marketing was Mr. Roscoe E. Rich, president of the Idaho Wool Growers Association. That committee held an open session at the close of the second day's regular sessions of the convention.

The committee first considered the lamb demonstration work carried on last fall by the National Association. Mr. J. C. Naylor, of the Central Nebraska Sheep Feeders Association, spoke in approval of the lamb demonstration work and of the great interest in such undertakings on the part of the lamb feeders of Nebraska and Colorado. He announced that arrangements had been made by them for a contribution of not less than \$5000 in 1928 for this work. This amount

has now been paid in and partially used through the National Live Stock and Meat Board to continue the publicity work on lamb and the cutting demonstrations now being given in eastern cities by Mr. Hartzell before meetings of retail butchers and hotel and restaurant operators. At the conclusion of Mr. Naylor's remarks, the following discussion of market conditions and practices took place:

**Chairman Rich:**

There is another subject concerning which we would like to have some discussion now: the practices at the markets. I might say information has come to your secretary, and some of us who have been back there have some reason to believe, there is a practice at some of the markets of weighing up lambs before the price at which the lambs are traded has been established. In other words, the packer buyer might say to the commission man: "We will give you the top of the market for your lambs today," or "ten cents under the top of the market," as the case might be, "and weigh them up; and when the market is established, the price is established." Personally, I am of the opinion this is a very bad practice. I think your committee should take some action regarding it. I don't know just how prevalent this is at the different markets. I have had but very little experience at the markets this last fall. This matter is now open for discussion.

**Mr. John T. Caine III.** (Union Stockyards, Chicago): Mr. Chairman, for the last three years, as you know, I have been in Washington, working with the Packers and Stockyards Administration and, as it came under my jurisdiction in that capacity to look after these markets and guarantee that these markets gave you a square deal, I have had a good deal to do with the situation Mr. Rich has mentioned. That practice is not very prevalent. I have talked with Mr. Marshall about it, and before leaving that work in Washington I talked with others about it. The Packers and Stockyards Administration boys are all at work on it. They will do what they can on this proposition; they will cooperate with you. The exchanges at the different markets, before I left the department, promised the Packers and Stockyards Administration officials that they would look into the matter and that this practice would stop. If you went to the markets now, I think you probably would not find any of it.

Of course, it practically all happens when you have a big bunch of lambs going in, in the fall, and when there may be some one big day on the market. But the exchanges themselves, the Packers and Stockyards Administration, and the stockyards companies are all working at it; and I think there is a good chance that it will be taken care of in the near future.

I know that the stockyards companies themselves are not going to stand for any condition on that market which is going to keep you men from shipping there. That, of course, would

be a bad business proposition on their part. And I know that most of the big yards will be with you in seeing that any condition that is wrong, anything which interferes with the free movement of the live stock and the free, open competitive conditions on the market, will be straightened out in the right way. As I say, the Packers and Stockyards Administration will do what they can, and the exchanges will also join in.

Some of you know a good deal about these markets, and some of you know a good deal about the people who handle your product there. I have been fairly closely in touch for the last few years with this group of men who handle your stuff on the market; and in the main we have found they are a fair, square, honest group of men. There are always some crooks in every organization; and I believe, if we went into it deep enough, we would find a few in the producing end of it. We find crooks everywhere. But we do not find any great proportion on the marketing end. If you will take into consideration the enormous amount of stuff that is marketed—twenty-four million cattle, sometimes fifteen million sheep, and so on—you will find there is not a great amount of crookedness in this marketing game. If there were a lot of crookedness, I would have known about it.

You are going to get cooperation in this. I agree with Mr. Rich and his committee that there is a condition there that should be looked into immediately and cleared up. So far as the yards and the other agencies are concerned, with which I happen to be connected, we will do our part. And I think you will find that the exchanges and the others will likewise do their part in clearing this situation up. I thank you.

**Secretary Marshall:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Caine, or any of the other representatives of other markets, or any of the commission men who are here from any of the markets, if they would give us their views on the idea of having the price marketed on the scale ticket when sheep are weighed up to the buyers at the markets. In discussing this question mention has been made of our friends among the commission men. This suggestion has been made—I don't know where it first started, maybe with myself—that, in order to make sure that this practice could not continue, could not extend further, the custom should come into operation of always marking the price on the ticket at the time of weighing.

I have not had an opportunity to talk very fully with all the men, but some of the exchange men have told me they thought that would largely cure whatever there is to be cured. I am wondering whether in an administrative way, or from the standpoint of the buyers, there is any serious objection to the adoption of such a rule.

**Mr. Caine:** Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that you ask Mr. Christensen to discuss that for a minute. Mr. Christensen is connected with the Packers and Stockyards Administration.

**Chairman Rich:** Will Mr. Christensen kindly enlighten us on that matter?

**Mr. J. C. Christensen,** (Packers and Stock Yards Administration): Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen: I really do not know that I can make any statement regarding this practice at the present time. The practice has been, and the rule of the administration has been, that the scale ticket would be made at the time the transaction is consummated. We have always contended that that should be the record of the actual transaction and that the bargain or the sale should be made before the record is made. We have always contended that the price or other conditions of sale should be marked on the ticket. It has been our position that every trade should be a bona fide trade and that there should be a basis for that trade; that is, an actual basis, more than an estimated basis, or a basis to be fixed by other conditions than the bargaining power between the purchaser and the seller at the time the trade is consummated. That is what we have been working forward to and trying to accomplish.

As Mr. Caine said, I believe this condition has greatly improved in the recent past. We feel it is going to work its way out, with the cooperation of the commission men, the stockyards and the Packers and Stockyards personnel. We feel satisfied your cause of complaint along that line will greatly diminish, if it has not already solved itself.

**Chairman Rich:** There is another practice which is prevalent, I think, at some of the markets. The weighing force, which is available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, is not available on Friday and Saturday. As you men know, oftentimes we have pretty big runs on Friday. In Chicago this last fall we had 25,000 or 26,000 sheep on a Friday, due to the accumulation in the yards of quite a large supply of packer stuff and other stuff during the week. This somewhat hinders the handling of live stock that is there on sale that day. We wonder if we should not have some action on that matter. We wonder if at least on Friday the regular weighing force should not be maintained in order to handle that situation.

We would like to hear from some of you gentlemen on that score as well as on the other matter we have just been discussing.

**Mr. Caine:** I do not want to take up all the time, Mr. Chairman, but I have just one suggestion on that first matter, the matter of marking the scale price on the scale ticket, as suggested by Mr. Marshall.

There is a little bit of doubt in the mind of some that such a thing can be carried out to the letter on all the markets. One of the reasons for that is the cooperative shipping of live stock, which sends in large numbers of individual consignments in a car, and these have to be divided up into numerous lots. Sometimes one or two or three cars of live stock will come in to a commission firm from sixty or seventy, or even a hundred, owners. They have not been able to figure out how they could put the price on the tickets exactly at the time the sale is made. They may be able to. But that is something to be worked out. Some markets do it, and some do not. I believe it is a good thing and I think it should be stressed.

As to the other proposition, I think that is primarily a matter of management at the yards and that it will have to be taken up with the yard people themselves. I shall certainly do that. I also suggest that Mr. Christensen make a note of it and send word to the supervisor at Chicago, so that he can take it up with the stockyards people there. If anybody can look after your interest, they can. That is what they are there for. So it will be taken up with them

in the next few days; to try and see to it that there is a sufficient weighing force to handle the daily business.

I, of course, was very much interested in this western lamb movement. While I was in the Packers and Stockyards Administration we arranged to have a man watch the sheep end of the business in Chicago. His reports during the last part of 1927 were that they had had very good cooperation and that things had gone along smoothly. At the time Mr. Rich was there it probably happened that they did not have that arrangement lined up, which resulted in this congestion that he mentions. That is a good point to bring up. We will see that the management of the yards is given this information.

**Mr. E. N. Wentworth** (of Armour & Company, Chicago): Mr. Chairman, nothing has been said on behalf of the market agencies. I cannot speak for the commission men, but I can speak very definitely for the packers. There is no advantage to us in this practice of an open contract; that is, in having the stuff weighed up before the price is made. One day we might gain; the next day we would lose. It does not make a particle of difference to us. We would just as soon have the price placed on the tickets as not. Perhaps it would be to our advantage to do so. I am judging it only from our department. I do not know as it makes very much difference one way or the other. We know what is on the market. The price is going to be about the same, because we know about what the supply will be and about what the market conditions are. I do not see as it makes very much difference with the price level at all. However, I am not defending it, because it is perfectly satisfactory to me to have them marked the other way. I was just wondering whether it was as important a question as you people are making of it.

**Secretary Marshall:** Mr. Chairman, I think it is an exceedingly important question. If the buyers are following this practice, I believe they are doing it because they are buying cheaper. I do not see any other reason for them doing it.

**Chairman Rich:** I want to thank the gentleman for his opinion. I take it for granted it is well founded and that the packers will not object to having this practice stopped.

Unless you gentlemen so instruct your committee, I assure you that we are going to report to the convention that we think it very important that this practice do stop.

I am sure we would like to hear at this time from our friend Mr. Ed Nolan, of Omaha.

**Mr. Ed Nolan** (of Union Stock Yards, Omaha, Nebraska): Mr. Chairman, I don't know as I would know what to say to a shipper without being able to tell him his price. I never heard of the practice you speak of on our market.

**Mr. Wentworth:** Mr. Chairman, I may say also as far as applying to 60 or 70 per cent, I never heard of it either. I know of our buyers having done it once or twice and then it was on afternoon transactions, not on morning transactions, and under what I should consider rather unusual circumstances such as late arrivals or parts of strings of lambs already partly sold, or something of that sort.

I don't know whether this will check with your experience, Mr. Nolan; but it has always been with us, as I say, under unusual circumstances.

**Mr. Nolan:** I might say, Mr. Chairman, as mentioned by Mr. Caine, with a number of individual lots mixed in together, a buyer might

not make an expression as to what he would give. He would sell the bulk of the shipment and sum them up afterwards, with the understanding that, if the others compared favorably with the big percentage of the shipment, the same price would prevail. Thus we could assure the owner of the big percentage of the shipment that his lambs brought such-and-such a price; but we could not state to the smaller owner just what his lambs would bring until they were sorted out and brought to the attention of the buyer. Then the buyer would be called and shown the lambs separately, whereas he had seen them possibly coming from the chutes in a body.

**Mr. C. Polk** (of Idaho): Mr. Chairman, this has occurred, I know, the first thing on a Monday morning. My first knowledge of it was in Denver last fall. There were 32,000 sheep on the market that day and Armour and Swift both took out their supplies before their morning kill without any price being fixed, and they sat on the fence until afternoon before they bought anything. The consequence was that a local packer, who killed possibly a carload of lambs a week, set the market for that day.

**Chairman Rich:** If any of you gentlemen from the yards at Chicago, Kansas City, St. Joseph or the other markets, or any of you commission men, would care to discuss this problem, we would be glad to hear from you. Would any of the gentlemen representing those markets care to discuss this matter?

**Mr. Mike Hayes** (Union Stock Yards, Denver, Colorado): Mr. Chairman, I do not believe there has ever been a time in Denver that we weighed up a complete consignment without a price. Armour & Company are the ones who carry on the practice mostly there. They kill a big part of the lambs in Denver. Time after time when I have had strings of lambs, I have had them come down and ask, "Can I take a car of these lambs to kill?"

We usually wait in Denver until we get the eastern markets. We get Chicago at 9:15, and Omaha and Kansas City just as soon as we have read Chicago. So that until then we have practically no market established. We don't like to go ahead and trade, because the packers have their wires ahead of us a great deal of the time. And then Armour or Swift, or whoever it may be, will want to get the killing gang at work so they do not have to stop.

A great many times I have weighed up carloads of lambs to either one of the killers at the price the string brought, or at a guaranteed price if that was about the only thing that day. For instance, I had one string of lambs last summer and I was guaranteed 25 cents a hundred over the top of the day before to let Armour take one car of lambs in order to keep their gang going. As it happened, I believe I could have had 15 cents more than that. But I know I never have weighed up a straight consignment of lambs with no price set, and I do not believe there has ever been a time on the market that a whole consignment of lambs has been weighed up without a price being set. But, as I say, there have been times when a car or so was handled that way in order to keep the gang going.

**Mr. Wentworth:** Mr. Chairman, that is what I meant. It was part of a string that was moved that way. Mr. Hayes explained it better than I did. It was a part of a string, and the price was based on the whole shipment of lambs for that particular shipper. It is never a small shipper. It is always a man who has quite a large string of lambs so that the bidding, or



price fixing, if you want to call it that, as a result of the trade, is based on the entire string. I think Mr. Hayes has explained it very definitely and clearly.

**Mr. Nolan:** Mr. Chairman, many times the buyers will go with you early in the morning, before the receipt of their orders in Chicago. Possibly, if you have more than they think they can use, they will select the different bunches that they will agree to buy. In other words, they will say: "You have too many for me to handle today; I will buy these three or four consignments." And while they may not be in a condition to bid, they will intimate to you that they are going to follow the market. While there is no bidding, you are led to believe that, as soon as they get word from Chicago and the market opens, they will come and bid and make the deal.

**Mr. Hayes:** Mr. Chairman, there is just one other thing I think of in that connection that sometimes works to a big advantage on our market. Everything in northern Colorado is put on a "freight paid" basis, because the freight is paid to the river when the lambs go to the feed lot. The packers buy their stuff in Denver on the "freight paid" basis, thereby equalizing all our differentials on the market, which varies from six to forty-one cents a hundred. It can very readily be seen, if I have a car of lambs with a forty-one-cent differential, and another man has a car of lambs with a six-cent differential, the packer has to buy them on that differential and he has to buy my lambs for so much less; and a salesman would have a hard time explaining to me why he had to take less for my lambs than for the others.

A great many times we can take a quarter a hundred less than the freight paid. In reality, if we had to wait and trade on that car of lambs on the "freight paid" basis and had to sell them on the "freight paid" basis later in the day, when the string is sold, we would have to take thirty-five cents a hundred less, because the differential is thirty-five cents a hundred. So there is a little advantage in selling them early and getting ten cents a hundred more for the shipper and then trading on the string afterwards.

**Secretary Marshall:** Mr. Chairman, I am inclined to think my good friend, Colonel Wentworth, is not as fully informed about what his sheep department does as he will be next week, perhaps, by his own efforts. I know him well, and he knows me too well to misunderstand me. But I believe the practice is more general and more serious than he seems to think.

On one occasion I know positively the Armour & Company buyer, about eleven o'clock in the morning, on a market that had not yet moved, got from a Chicago commission house a bunch of lambs at the market; and it was not a part of a string, either. But, unfortunately, most all the information I got on that, which I am sure is correct, is partly confidential; and, besides, there is nobody here from Chicago to check me up on it.

I want to say further however, that President Hagenbarth and myself had this matter up with one of the other large packers at Chicago last October. And at that time I made about the same statement, in about the same language, with about the same vehemence, as I did a moment ago with reference to paying a commission to "make" the market. He was very much surprised. He said, "We thought that stabilized the market."

It has, to my mind, a very strong tendency to keep the market from going up, and not

much tendency to keep it from going down. I think it is a little too much 'stabilization.'

I would like to make a statement about the distribution by days of receipts of lambs at the markets in the range shipping season.

Comparing these lines (referring to a chart showing daily receipts and prices of lambs at the markets in September and October of 1926 and 1927) with those of 1926, you will find the situation was much more uniform, especially on the Monday runs, than it was the year before. The prices are very much more uniform; in fact, there has been a greater stabilization of prices in 1927, running clear on to October, caused by the evening out of the distribution.

I want to call your attention to one spot here at Chicago, on September 6, the Tuesday after Labor Day: 40,579. That is the high spot on any of the markets. If you will remember, last year we had about four or five 40,000 Mondays. And you know the result. In explaining the cause of that, I want to make sure that we understand each other, for I believe the packers are just as much interested as we are ourselves in trying to get this supply spread out right to take care of the requirements, with the price advantage that would come to us from it.

For that day of 40,000 an estimate of receipts of 20,000 sheep was given out by the Market News Service. They published on Monday afternoon an estimate of 20,000 for Tuesday morning's run. When the market opened up, there were 40,000. I think the men who were responsible for bringing in that other 20,000 have a pretty good defense in having been misled by that official forecast on the day before of the Market News Service. The explanation of the Market News Service was that they came down on Labor Day, Monday, to make out the estimate and they could not get the reports from any of the salesmen of western sheep because the salesmen were off on a holiday, as they had a right to be, so there was published only the run of natives, as based upon the car reports which they had. And that is how they missed it fifty per cent.

But I also want to say that extra 20,000 that day, which had been ordered in after the government estimate was put out, were returned by about three Chicago houses. I have not seen the representatives of any of those houses here. I have talked with them regarding this situation at the markets. They were not houses that usually handled the big shipments of western lambs at Chicago. It was rather a chance proposition that they had a big bunch out there, the market had been pretty good the week before, and they let them come in. Nobody else was expecting such a bunch. The market dropped and stayed down the rest of the week. It went back the next Monday and stayed pretty steady.

I believe that the commission men in general, I might say almost without exception, are watching this and are working harder on it than they used to. If any blame attaches to any one, as much of it belongs to you shippers as to the commission men. If the shippers would watch this and give their commission men a chance to help them, it would be better all around.

I do not want to prolong this, Mr. Chairman, but the present indications are, so far as they can be judged today, that the size of the runs at Chicago and the other markets next September and October, the total amount of them, and the way they run, cannot be expected to be as uniform as they were in 1927. I think we have a considerable danger of being hurt in September and October, 1928, again by

receipts of 40,000 lambs at Chicago on Mondays. If we ourselves will keep alive to this situation, if we see that our commission men do likewise, if we also keep pretty close to the Market News Service in the way of putting out these estimates that the commission men are guided by, I think we can protect ourselves to a very great extent on the September and October markets in 1928. If we do not do that, I am more apprehensive today than I care to explain as to the way those lines will look at our next convention.

**Mr. Naylor:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Marshall if he doesn't think that such a condition might have existed in Chicago without the knowledge of any commission man.

We are 122 miles west of Omaha. If we are shipping lambs regularly, I talk at noon with our commission man, whoever he may be, and ask him what it looks like for tomorrow. He will say: "There are so many at Fremont, so many at Valley, so many at Lincoln, and the estimate calls for so many in the next day." There might be 5,000 to 7,000 more than the estimate called for because there are a lot of fellows who are feeding from one to four cars, but generally only one or two cars, who will come in there without the knowledge of any commission man until they arrive.

I think Mr. Nolan will tell you that he has had lots of lambs come East that he did not know anything about. The shippers did not call up their commission man. They had listened to the radio; they thought the market was all right; and, as they had their cars ordered, in came the lambs. And no one knew they were there until they arrived.

**Secretary Marshall:** I do not think that is so very largely true at Chicago, although it is to some extent. You can never gauge this thing closer than 60 per cent to 70 per cent. That is the best you can do; but that is worth while, I take it.

The Sunday estimate that is ordinarily put out at Chicago, and this applies as well to the Monday estimate that was put out on this particular day, is for the feeding zone around Chicago and the native territory. That estimate is based on the railroad reports of car loadings for that day. As a matter of fact, on the whole they are pretty accurate. More of the trouble comes at Chicago from some of the "directs" of other markets that were not reported when the estimates were made up.

**Mr. Nolan:** Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if this "over run" on the market, as we call it, might not sometimes be traced to a lack of inquiry by the Bureau of Markets. As we understand it, they are supposed to find out from the feed yards, from the different railroads, that can be reached by telephone, how many cars of lambs they expect on the market. And I was wondering if this wide variance in their reports is due to any lack of proper investigation on their part. It is possible it would be well for the committee to find out if there is any laxness in that matter.

**Chairman Rich:** That is a good suggestion, Mr. Nolan. Is there any one else who would like to add anything to what has already been said in this discussion? It is getting rather late. I think this banquet is going to take place pretty soon, and I know you gentlemen are all hungry. We want to thank the packer representatives and the commission men who have taken part in this discussion, for the information they have given us. This open meeting was held with the idea of getting some information. In making our report, we want to be entirely fair with all concerned.



### SHORTAGE IN COLORADO HAY AND BEET CROPS

Colorado lamb feeders are not worrying about water supply this year. Alfalfa hay, or the lack of it, is the big problem. It is estimated that practically 40 per cent of the alfalfa in northern Colorado was killed out during the past winter.

There are two reasons for this shortness of the prospective alfalfa crop: (1) winter killing and bacterial blight and (2) the use of southern-grown seed. It is reported that much southern seed has been "blended" with northern varieties and sold through the state. "Blending" tobacco may improve the quality, but southern seed is southern seed and no amount of "blending" will make it hardy enough for northern conditions, as farmers are finding to their sorrow.

A large per cent of the newer seedings in Well and Larimer counties has been winter killed. The average loss is estimated at about 40 per cent but some farmers have suffered as high as 75 per cent loss from this cause. For some time farmers have noticed a disease working on the alfalfa which causes it to gradually die out after three or four years. This condition exists not only in Colorado, but in many parts of the West. It is due to a bacterial blight which causes the plant itself to exude a gummy substance which plugs up the water tubes through which it takes in moisture. Although botanists and agronomists are working on this problem, no solution has yet been found. The bacteria which cause the irritation to the plant membranes have been isolated but whether they come from the ground or irrigation water is not known. One theory supposes a lack of essential plant food or else a lack of balance in plant foods available, which tends to weaken the plant and make it more susceptible to the disease. It has already been determined that there is no hope for rotation as a remedy. Alfalfa seeded on land that has been 17 years without the plant shows disease as strongly as old ground.

At present it is thought that some hope lies in developing a disease resistant variety and work along that line is being carried on. This disease, however, which ordinarily does not become apparent until the third or fourth year is not the main

reason for the extreme losses this winter, which, as has already been stated, occurred principally in the later seedings.

Alfalfa will undoubtedly be the limiting factor in lamb feeding operations this year. A very large acreage of corn is going in and some Sudan grass will be grown, these crops to be used as substitute roughages and they will help the situation to some extent. The beet controversy has cut down the acreage of beets and consequently the beet tops and pulp ordinarily available for fattening lambs, but the factories claim over 80 per cent of last year's acreage in Colorado.

To sum up the opinions of lamb feeders at the present time it is estimated that northern Colorado next year will be unable to handle more than 50 per cent of the feeding lambs fattened this year but later developments may increase this figure somewhat.

Ft. Collins, Colo.

E. J. Maynard

### JAPAN AS A MARKET FOR WOOL AND SHEEP

The woolen industry of Japan is one of growing importance, worthy of serious consideration by breeders of sheep and exporters of wool alike. American sheep raisers are more or less familiar with the purchases of breeding sheep that have been made in the United States during the past ten years by the Japanese government. Similar purchases have also been made in Australia and England. This interest in sheep raising on the part of Japan has been created by the increased demand for woolen goods in that country, and the desire to build up a woolen industry that will supply the needs of her people.

During the past twenty years Japan has made extraordinarily rapid progress in many of her manufacturing industries, especially so since the war. She supplies most of her requirements in cotton goods and has also been able to build up an export trade of good volume in the cheaper grades. The progress has not been so marked in regard to her woolen industry, and large importations of yarns and woolen cloth are still necessary. The demand for woolen textiles is increasing to such an extent, however, that a large demand for wool is being created. In

January of this year Japan imported more than \$680,000 worth of wool, which represents an increase of 70 per cent over the January, 1927, imports. For the year 1927, the total imports of wool made by Japan were valued at approximately \$50,000,000; in 1926, Japan imported over \$42,000,000 worth of wool; in 1925, \$58,000,000; in 1923 and 1924, approximately \$38,500,000 was paid for foreign wools.

The Japanese government is naturally anxious to remedy this state of affairs and produce her own wool requirements. To do this sheep raising is being encouraged and subsidies granted; woolen piece goods are subjected to heavy import duties and the mills are clamoring for still higher tariffs in order to protect the home industry. In her sheep raising project, Japan is handicapped by her area, which does not provide much room for pastures, except in the Hokkaido, and there the climate is hardly suitable for raising large flocks of sheep. It is, therefore, doubtful whether Japan will ever become independent of foreign countries for her requirements in wool. There is, however, on the other hand, little doubt that her woolen manufacturing industry will make more rapid progress and gradually cut down the importations of finished or half-finished yarns and woolen piece goods.

Hence, exporters of wool should watch the Japanese market and those who have not yet considered it a large enough market to warrant representation on the spot will probably find it a profitable move to do so; for it is an excellent market and will continue to be one where satisfactory prices may be obtained.

For breeders also there is and will continue to be a good market. The very fact that the area that can be devoted to sheep raising is small necessarily means that Japan can afford to run only sheep having a high wool yield that can be adapted to her climatic conditions. To build her flocks up and maintain them at a high level of wool production Japan will continue to make purchases abroad, and she is willing to pay high prices for sheep suitable for breeding purposes.

London, England.

Walter Bucher

# The Leading Wool Growing County and Its Pioneer

By Joseph Martin Dawson



Wools Arriving for the Sealed Bid Sales at the Grower-Controlled Warehouse, Del Rio, Texas

Val Verde is Spanish for green valley. It is the name of one of giant Texas' largest counties. Look on the map and you will see that it lies in the southwestern part of the state with the Rio Grande forming its southern boundary and separating it from Old Mexico. You will also see that it is by far the best watered of the remote southwestern counties—the San Felipe, the Pecos, and the Devil's rivers and numerous creeks passing through its borders to their final junction with the Rio Grande. Unlike many of its neighbors, therefore, Val Verde is green.

Of all the lovely verdure that greens the slopes and vales of Val Verde, the most wonderful is the huajillo. This fern-like, low-lying bush is not only delightful to the eyes, but its white blossoms emit a pleasant odor and its foliage is agreeable to the palate of sheep and goats. In this region it is plentiful, the landscape presenting the appearance of a vast Old World vineyard.

The term 'vast' is used with no hesitation, for over 1,973,000 acres are included in its boundaries. In area it is exceeded by the counties of Brewster and Pecos in Texas; in sheep numbers, Crockett County, Texas, with a total of 316,717 head, outranks it; but in wool production Val Verde holds first place, not only in Texas, but in the United States. The Bureau of the Census, in its report for

1925, enumerates the sheep in the state of Texas as 3,137,129 head, from which a total of 20,112,976 pounds of wool is clipped. The same report gives the sheep population of Val Verde County as 306,354 and a total wool production of 2,114,455 pounds. The Crockett County clip is figured as 2,033,957 pounds, with Sutton, Edwards and Schleicher counties next in order. The production in Val Verde has steadily increased, however, since then, and the figures would be much

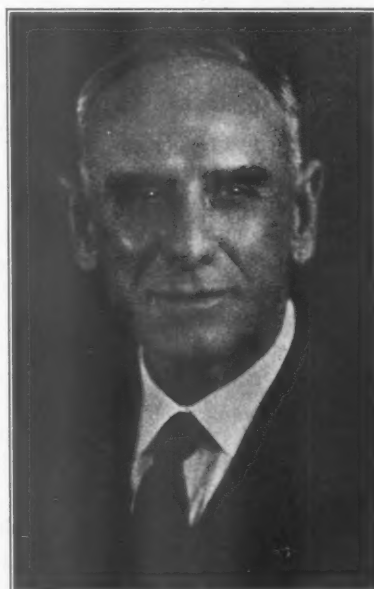
larger at present. An idea of the growth may be obtained by the following figures taken from the records of the Del Rio Wool and Mohair Company over a period of years:

1922—1,864,459 pounds.  
1923—1,908,957 pounds.  
1924—2,258,932 pounds.  
1925—2,423,509 pounds.  
1926—2,665,761 pounds.  
1927—2,714,693 pounds.

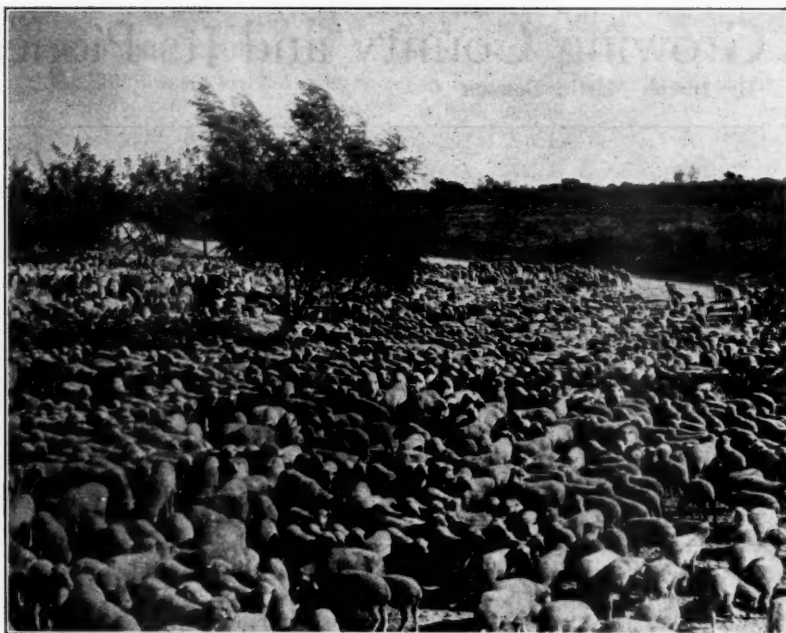
That is not a bad showing, especially when it is remembered that there are two other wool companies in Del Rio that do a considerable volume of business, and even then not all of Val Verde's wool is marketed through Del Rio, but some of it is carried to adjoining counties, not a little to distant places. In addition Val Verde County has a hundred thousand goats yielding nearly five pounds per head of mohair each year. The combined sheep and goat population shows that there is either a sheep or a goat for each five acres of land in the county.

It is not an accident that Val Verde should become the largest wool-producing county in the United States. Yet the time was when it was a cow country and not highly regarded at that because the plentiful bush crowds out the grass. But sheep thrive upon huajillo.

Among those who had the foresight to discern the true destiny of the Val Verde country was Jeff B. Moore, who in 1877



JEFF B. MOORE  
A Leading Figure in the Development of the Texas Sheep Industry.



A Val Verde Flock Well Supplied With Water, Shade and Feed. A large Part of Texas Range Sheep Are Run Loose in Fenced Pastures.

tired of the Argentine pampas and decided to return to his native United States of the North. Arriving in San Antonio, after a little survey of the situation, he decided upon sheep. Investing in a flock, he and his father with their Mexican pastores drifted northward into the San Angelo County. There was the usual conflict with the free range cattle barons, but the Moores, who had battled Indians on the pampas were not to be driven off even by the threat of the six-shooters and Winchester rifles. They stood their ground on the headwaters of the Concho, old Ben McMahon, foreman of the Door Key ranch at last remarking, "Well, I guess there's room for us all."

Of those early days in the sheep business when they hauled their clips in wagons more than two hundred miles to San Antonio and often sold for ten or twenty cents a pound—one year for four cents—there is not space to tell. Of encounters with bandits and bad men of the time there is no need to tell, except that Jeff Moore yielded to the appeal of his fellow citizens in their desire to have him serve as sheriff, which put him in a position to reduce lawlessness and enabled him to bring respect for order in that sec-

tion. Later in partnership with C. C. Walsh, now chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas, Texas, he organized the largest bank of San Angelo. He organized too the San Angelo Wool Company, which has had much to do with the development of the great sheep industry in that country, now the most important wool area in America.

During all the years stretching from 1877 down to 1913, Jeff Moore never lost sight of the Val Verde country. In 1913 he moved to Del Rio and purchased a considerable ranch north of the town. At once he organized the Del Rio Wool and Mohair Company and later became the president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association. The cowmen began to give way before the rapidly rising sheep and goat men. The big pastures began to be enclosed with high, close-meshed fences. Land values rose from four to ten and twelve dollars per acre. The business had become profitable, in fact commanding.

Moore was a pioneer in breeding better sheep. He was among the first to introduce the Rambouillet. From Utah he brought a fine ram and a number of ewes. Some were aghast at the price he

paid for these, and shook their heads in much doubt of the venture, but he soon demonstrated their hardihood, their superior yield of wool and their greater value on the market, with the result that there is now a wide-spread movement in the Val Verde country to substitute them for the native stocks.

I was out at his ranch the other day when the spring shearing was in process. The six-month clip was four and five pounds per sheep. Of course, to one who was able to visualize the old time manipulation of hand shears in comparison with these elaborate, wholesale, machine-driven clippers, the scene on this up-to-date ranch furnished occasion for much musing on the progress of this, one of the most ancient of industries. Indeed, a few years ago I traveled over the hills of Palestine, beholding the flocks of sheep that are inseparable from the Holy Land, with vivid impressions coming to me which could never be obliterated; but here in a country, which in climate and topography, has often been compared with the shepherd-land of Israel, I was struck with the fact that an industry in many of its aspects so simple and unchangeable as that of sheep may nevertheless be subject to vast improvement.

Such improvement has been the end toward which Mr. Moore and men of his like have worked in Val Verde. Results of no mean proportions have been secured, but as each step in advance has been taken, a broader vista has presented itself. There is no end to it. With the improvement that is being made in the breeding of its sheep and the continued luxuriant growth of the huajillo, and the men with vision and determination to carry on, many years lie ahead of Val Verde as a progressive, high-ranking sheep county.

#### SHEEP QUARANTINE RAISED

The Oregon Wool Grower for May 1 carries an announcement to the effect that the Idaho quarantine which has been in existence since 1922 against Oregon sheep, has been removed and sheep from Oregon may now be received in Idaho.



## Wyoming Association President Accepts Challenge for Enforcement of Truth in Fabrics Law

The Supreme Court of Wyoming recently rendered a decision which upholds the constitutionality of the law enacted by the state legislature in 1925, commonly known as the Truth-in-Fabrics Act.

Shortly after the decision was published Kleber H. Hadsell, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, issued a statement in which he said: "Our association will move to bring about compliance with the Truth-in-Fabrics Law as promptly as is possible, bearing in mind that the burden of the law is on the retailer and that the retailer is our friend and neighbor. There will be no persecution on our part, but to be consistent and true to our cause, we must proceed to make Wyoming law operative."

Opposition to state and national legislation to compel labeling of woolen goods as to their content of shoddy, or reworked wool, has come chiefly from the Carded Woolen Manufacturers Association of Boston. Following the action of the Wyoming Supreme Court this association sent to the Wyoming Wool Growers Association a challenge to enforce the wool labeling law. The statement of the carded manufacturers and the reply of Mr. Hadsell are printed below, together with the text of the Wyoming law of 1925. In connection with the carded manufacturers' references to worsted and woolen fabrics, it should be understood that the carded system of manufacturing produces woolens only. Worsted goods are made from combed wools; the yarns are more closely twisted than are woolen yarns, and the fabric has a harder feel and smoother finish. It generally is conceded that the worsted process does not permit of extensive use of reworked wools. In the woolen system it is possible to utilize shorter wools and quite large proportions of reworked materials, though some woolen goods contain only virgin wool.

### The Letter of the Carded Woolen Manufacturers

My dear Mr. Hadsell:

The daily press reports that the Supreme Court of your State has recently upheld the

constitutionality of the so-called "pure-wool" law of 1925. \*\*\*\*

There is nothing now in the constitution and laws of Wyoming to obstruct the Wyoming Wool Growers Association in making a fight to a finish for the enforcement of the



KLEBER H. HADSELL  
President, Wyoming Wool Growers Association.

so-called "pure-wool" law of 1925, which was enacted at the request of the wool growers represented by your association.

As you admit, in order "to be consistent and true to your cause, you must proceed to make the law operative."

You will doubtless also admit the self-evident fact that natural law, such, for example, as the laws controlling gravitation and chemical reactions, is superior to any law that may be framed by man, including the constitution and laws of Wyoming.

We have repeatedly pointed out to you, your predecessors, Congress and the public, that such a law as the Wyoming Act of 1925 requiring goods to be labeled to show the correct proportions of new wool and reworked wool, cannot be enforced, because it is impossible to distinguish new wool from reworked wool by any test, physical, chemical or whatnot, when the two kinds of wool are mixed and manufactured into wool goods.

If we are wrong, you should be able to demonstrate that fact and enforce your law.

If we are right, the Wyoming "pure-wool" law is unworkable because in conflict with the higher law of nature, and is as absurd as a law requiring that every article made of metal that is offered for sale, whether gold, silver, copper, lead, iron or other metallic substance, shall be labeled to show the proportions of new metal that has never been used in the

manufacture of any other article, and of old metal that has been melted over and mixed with the new.

While we are waiting impatiently for your association "to be consistent and true to your own cause" by "proceeding to make the law operative," we ask you and the wool growers of Wyoming to consider the effects of the Act of 1925 if it cannot be enforced because in conflict with the law of the universe:

1. Unscrupulous merchants and manufacturers are now able without risk of detection to label wool clothing "all virgin wool," regardless of whether it is made of all new wool or not. On the other hand merchants and manufacturers having a regard for honesty in trade will be forced either to abandon the Wyoming market or allow their goods to be discredited in your State by label 4 specified in the Act (exempting local retailers if label states that manufacturer or wholesaler had upon request refused to give proportions of new and reworked wool), because it is impossible for any merchant or manufacturer, even if he has made the goods himself, to determine the percentage of reworked wool in fabrics. The Act of 1925 thus places a premium on dishonesty, penalizes honest dealing and defrauds the consumers by false labels.

2. As the intrinsic value of wool fabrics does not depend on whether they contain reworked wool, it is now possible to sell to the people of Wyoming very inferior clothing made of all new wool and label it truthfully "all virgin wool," while very superior fabrics containing reworked wool will either be excluded from the State, discredited by label 4 or falsely labeled "all virgin wool." The Wyoming consumers when purchasing the labeled goods will thus be defrauded and deprived of serviceable clothing.

3. As reworked wool cannot be worked into yarns and fabrics by the worsted process, clothing made of worsted, no matter how inferior or lacking in warmth it may be, can now be sold to the people of Wyoming, who will be misled by the technically truthful label "all virgin wool" into paying high prices for very poor clothing.

4. As both new wool and reworked wool can be worked by the carded woolen process, clothing made of carded woolen fabrics, no matter how warm, durable and well made, will be excluded from Wyoming, sold under disparaging and deceptive labels or, even when made of all new wool and labeled "all virgin wool," will be subjected to suspicion by the Wyoming people who have been misled by the leaders of the wool growers into believing that good clothing cannot be made of cloth containing reworked wool. And so in this as in every other case, the Wyoming buyers of clothing are made the victims by being deprived of a supply of wool clothing made by the carded woolen process, which is best adapted for protecting them against the rigors of the Wyoming climate, and which, because of its warmth and durability, the army and navy of every nation on earth have adopted for military use in temperate and cold latitudes in preference to worsteds.

5. As a fitting climax to a law creating these indefensible conditions, the Wyoming

Act of 1925 gives a gratuitous advertisement to the wool goods marketed by an Eastern firm under a trademark that displays the words "virgin wool" and which has been the principal factor in spreading the use of the word "virgin" to designate new wool.

If your attempt to be true to your own cause and make the Wyoming law operative proves that the law is unworkable, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have rendered a great service, not only to the 220,000 inhabitants of your State, but to the 120,000,000 in the United States, by supplying a physical, chemical and legal demonstration of that fact on a State-wide scale, which neither misguided wool growers, nor well-meaning theorists, nor time-serving demagogues, nor selfish special interests can evade.

Yours very truly,

CARDED WOOLEN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION,  
WM. C. HUNNEMAN, Director

Boston, March 28, 1928.

### Mr. Hadsell's Reply

Dear Mr. Hunneman:

Common courtesy dictates that your letter of March 28th, which has been extensively distributed over Wyoming, in the form of a challenge to our association, be answered.

We rather wonder why you should challenge and why you should call us disagreeable names, such as "misguided wool growers," "well meaning theorists," "time serving demagogues" and "selfish special interests," or maybe you did not mean us.

After your challenge of 1923, which was likewise mailed to all parts of Wyoming, and then used before Congressional Committees to demonstrate the so-called fact that truth-in-fabrics legislation is unworkable, you were appealed to help finance a constitutional test case, and no such help from you was obtainable. Has your organization done its part in proving the workability of the Wyoming Truth-in-Fabrics Act? We believe that it has not.

The people of Wyoming, through the Legislature of Wyoming, have enacted the Truth-in-Fabrics Act. The Supreme Court of Wyoming has held that act to be constitutional. The merchants of the state are not protesting. This is a Wyoming matter, to be worked out as Wyoming people see fit. Your challenge, probably, will not affect the situation, except to help in obtaining publicity.

The Wyoming Truth-in-Fabrics Act has only been upheld by the Wyoming Courts. For a complete test as to its constitutionality, it should be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association would be much more interested in a challenge to prove constitutionality than workability, as we have never taken seriously the claims of the opposition regarding workability. Time only will prove workability. If our law runs contrary to the laws of the universe, as you say, or if it is contrary to economic laws, then it will fail, but your opinion on those points is not of value to us, as we believe that you are in error. The important test is the test of the United States Supreme Court, and if your organization wishes to perform a real service in this matter, we would suggest that you help bring about that test. The Congress of the United States would never enact truth-in-fabrics legislation in the face of an adverse opinion by the United States Supreme Court.

We do not feel that it is necessary to answer your arguments, as we have done that many times and during the long fight for truth-in-fabrics, the opposition has not relied solely on the reasonableness of their arguments, nor the justice of their cause for their success. Their reliance has been on organization and influence. As an example, we will quote you from the words of Mr. George A. Flannigan, Secretary of the Retail Bureau of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, who spoke on "Organization" in Denver, January 16, 1927, before the Rocky Mountain Retail Clothiers and Furnishers Association and Men's Apparel Club of Colorado, a branch of the National Association of Retail Clothiers and Furnishers. This quotation is taken from "The National Retail Clothier" of February 2nd. Mr. Flannigan said:

"Organization is one of the greatest functions of trade organizations. Especially is this true in a legislative way. If you members of this organization can recall, not one but many of you visited the state capitol during the last session of the Legislature, in an effort to lobby against the passage of the Truth-in-Fabric bill, which would seriously affect your business.

"But how many of you were even given an audience in committee by the various groups of law makers?

"Then organization was called upon. Messages were sent from here to every clothing merchant in Colorado, who is a member of this body, urging them to wire to their respective representatives before a certain hour, on a certain day, and the result is not unknown to any of you. Those messages were sent and when a vote was called on the bill in question, it was hopelessly defeated."

In 1923, truth-in-fabrics bills were beaten in sixteen states and the organization of the National Association of Retail Clothiers was chiefly responsible. It was not strength of argument that won. It was organization.

In 1921, when the first Wyoming truth-in-fabrics law was passed, organization was not ready for the move for state laws of this character, and in 1925, when the present law was passed, the merchants of the state were not in opposition. Nation-wide organization failed and now opponents of truth-in-fabrics legislation will have to await results in Wyoming, or carry a case to the United States Supreme Court.

When this law is enforced in Wyoming, as it will be, Wyoming will be the best state in the Union in which to purchase clothing and other merchandise made of wool, because of the protection given from the cheap substitutes for virgin wool. Then the inhabitants of other states, Colorado, Utah and Nebraska, can motor over the state line and buy suits to better advantage than at home, and truth-in-fabrics laws will soon be enacted in neighboring states. The final result will be a National Truth-in-Fabrics law, brought about as was the case with the Pure Food and Drug Act which was the result of the enactment of state laws.

This is handwriting on the wall, and if the carded woolen manufacturers do really use any virgin wool in their fabrics, we would suggest that it would be good business to let the people know about it.

Yours very truly,

WYOMING WOOL GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION,  
By KLEBER H. HADSELL,  
President

Rawlins, April 25, 1928.

### The Wyoming Truth in Fabrics Act

AN ACT to prevent deception in the marketing of manufactured products containing wool or purporting to contain wool, and requiring the labeling of all yarn, cloth, fabrics, garments or articles of apparel, manufactured for the purpose of sale, sold, or offered for sale, in the State of Wyoming, which contain wool, and of all samples of yarn, cloth, fabrics, garments or articles of apparel, containing wool or purporting to contain wool, displayed in the State of Wyoming in soliciting orders for sale of articles of like character, and fixing the penalty for the violation of this Act, and repealing Chapter 104, Session Laws of Wyoming, 1921, with saving clause.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

#### Labeling of Cloth, Clothing, Etc.— Virgin Wool

Section 1. Every person, firm or corporation who shall manufacture for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale, or who shall sell or offer for sale, in this State, any yarn, cloth, fabric, garment or article of apparel, containing wool or purporting to contain wool for the purpose of soliciting orders for the sale of yarn, cloth, fabrics, garments or articles of apparel, shall place thereon a conspicuous label showing the true character and quantity of the wool content thereof, and which said label shall be in clear, legible, bold-faced type, and shall be in one of the four following forms:

1. "This article is composed of all virgin wool."
2. "This article contains not less than..... per cent virgin wool."
3. "This article contains no virgin wool."
4. "The manufacturer and wholesale vendor of this article upon request have refused to give information as to the true quantity of the virgin wool content of this article."

Each form of said label when used as herein provided shall be followed by the name of the person, firm or corporation placing the same on the said labeled article, printed in clear, legible, bold-faced type.

The term "virgin wool," as used in this Act, is wool that previous to its use in the article required to be labeled hereunder has never been spun, woven or knitted into any yarn, fabric or cloth than that composing the said article. In the event that any article is labeled in the form indicated in label No. 2 herein, the blank in such form shall be filled in with some certain percentage. Provided, however, that in labeling any garment or article of apparel which contains lining, facing or trimming, or silk yarn used solely for decorative purposes, the label required to be placed thereon shall not be taken to refer, and shall not refer, to the lining or facing or trimming, or yarn used solely for decorative purposes, or the percentage or percentages of wool contained therein. Provided, further, that this Act shall not be construed as applying to or requiring the labeling of used, worn and second-hand garments; used, worn and second-hand articles of apparel; or rags.

#### Violation—Penalty

Section 2. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any part of this Act, or who shall by label, as required herein, state that the labeled article contains a greater percentage or greater amount of virgin wool than it does in fact contain, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall

## Act

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be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in a county jail for not less than ten days nor more than sixty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Provided that if any article is possessed for the purpose of sale, sold or offered for sale, or any sample is displayed, as hereinbefore provided, bearing either of the first two labels hereinbefore described, and provided, further, that such label is so placed thereon by the retail dealer therein and does correspond to written or printed information obtained in good faith by the said retail dealer from the manufacturer, jobber or wholesaler thereof, certified as true and correct over the signature of such manufacturer, jobber or wholesaler, and said certified information is produced on the trial, then and in that case the person, firm or corporation possessing for sale, selling, offering for sale, or displaying the said articles so labeled for the purpose aforesaid, shall not be deemed guilty of a violation of this Act in case the said label is proven to be false, but in such event the manufacturer, jobber or wholesaler supplying such false, certified, written or print-

ed information regarding the character and quantity of the wool content of such article as in this proviso described shall be deemed a violator of this Act and liable to all the penalties herein prescribed.

## Validity of Act

Section 3. If any provision of this Act shall be held to be invalid, it is hereby provided that all other provisions of this Act which are not expressly held to be invalid shall continue in full force and effect.

## Repeal

Section 4. That Chapter 104, Session Laws of Wyoming, 1921, be, and is hereby, repealed; provided, that such repeal shall not in any manner affect any pending prosecution, or any prosecution that may be hereafter instituted, for the violation of any of the provisions of said chapter committed prior to its repeal and provided, further, that any article bearing a label heretofore placed thereon pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of said chapter shall not be required to be relabeled so long as said original label is retained thereon.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 25, 1925.

to trade regardless of the source of the bid. This is evident in public market operations where complaint of speculative activity and influence on prices is frequently heard. This type of speculator maintains his position by his readiness to trade while the feeder is usually reluctant, at least until the property is out of first hands. Frequently the feeder bids sharply lower at the market to discover that the so-called trader has dealt with the commission man representing the owner meanwhile. This trading process puts the speculator both at the market and on the range in the position of price supporter and he will maintain that position just as long as breeders sell to and feeders buy from him. When his bids are right breeders will contract their lambs rather than wait until later in the season to do business with feeders direct.

However, premature contracting of lambs is to be deprecated. It is obviously a gambling operation. As John Naylor, the Nebraska feeder, said recently, "Engaging lambs for next winter's feeding before the present crop has been marketed is absurd."

S. K. Warrick asserts that early speculative activity this year was designed to fix a price out of line with reasonable expectation of profit; that the practice of contracting unborn lambs is wrong in principle and that making contracts without specifying maximum weight is also wrong. What might solve the problem would be delaying trading until June or May and then declaring a free-for-all.

May and June will probably see high lamb price levels as there was little fed stuff back in Colorado early in May, California lambs were not coming good and the Tennessee crop was late. Arizona had more spring lambs to market than last year, but not enough to disturb values even if it furnishes 100,000 head. Early native spring lambs have all but disappeared as a price making factor and the Missouri delegation is no longer of considerable volume. Washington will be on the market thirty days hence with a normal crop of good lambs. Tom Drumheller, who loaded his first Washington lambs late in May last year when they realized \$18.75, expects to repeat that performance, but there will be no

## LAMBFEEDERS AND SPECULATORS

By J. E. Poole

For several reasons feeder lamb trade promises to develop late this season. Based on a prosperous fat lamb market, speculators began operations early and prematurely, running against a snag early in April when dissent, if not strong opposition, developed in feeder circles. Prior to this approximately 80 per cent of the Wyoming lamb crop had been contracted at prices ranging from \$10.50@12 per hundredweight, and down in the Southwest operators are credited with engaging around 300,000 at \$10.55@11.50. When these operation became known, feeders in northern Colorado and the Platte Valley of Nebraska took alarm. S. K. Warrick, chairman of the Nebraska Feeders' Committee, was the leader of the movement and at the lamb feeders' day meeting at Mitchell, Neb., April 5, the matter was threshed out orally. In any event conditions do not promise an early deal so far as feeders are concerned. The corn belt is short of feed and until September the outcome of a corn crop is always somewhat in doubt. For two seasons past, corn-belt feeders have lost rather than made money on western lambs and their present mood is to await the gathering season. In the trans-Missouri region, hay crop impairment during the past winter must be reckoned with, not to speak

of disappearance of old hay by reason of a hard winter. Predicting feeder lamb buying on what has happened recently in the fat lamb market is not considered judicious as it is generally regarded as an abnormal season.

Colorado will not be able to feed as many lambs next winter owing to prospective hay conditions. After traversing that section a man in the trade said: "Regardless of what happens in the way of feed production this year Colorado will not have enough hay to warrant laying in to exceed 75 per cent of the lambs bought last fall. The beet raisers' strike is another reason why feeding operations must be contracted. Possibly the difference may be made up in other sections, but thereabouts nothing else can happen. Needing fewer lambs they are less anxious to make early contracts and are more finicky with respect to prices."

The purpose of the lamb feeders' movement is obviously to reduce cost of thin lambs. Whether or not elimination of the speculator, also contemplated, is possible must be left to conjecture or development. That the speculator is a problem for the feeder rather than the breeder will not be seriously disputed. When the breeder gets a bid for his lambs that he considers value, he is prepared



surplus over actual requirements, at least until the main column of western lambs begins moving and not until July is it probable that values will be disturbed. If beef continues high, and all the hand-writing on the wall carries that suggestion, lamb will be needed. With spring lamb carcasses vending readily at 35 to 40 cents per pound and yearling carcasses at 30 to 35 cents, the market has buying power. Consumers have wearied of an all-winter diet of almost all pork and lamb is a favorite spring meat. Probability exists that the market will be healthy right along and that killers will continue to "hop to em."

There is complaint of the quality and palatability of the average lamb chop served on eastern railroads. Much of this meat is the product of old ewes, a condition that reflects at least on the intelligence of the buyers identified with railroad commissary departments. Certainly there can be no excuse for the general inferiority of such meat as is served in the guise of lamb chops in some of the dining cars traversing the eastern section of the United States; in Canada it is different, the Canadian National or Grand Trunk serving excellent meat. Probably some one in the supply sphere is imposing on the American carriers in the matter of both lamb and beef.

#### THE 1928 LAMB CROP TO THE WOOL GROWER

I am glad to see your last month's editorial on the size of this year's lamb crop.

When the remarkable statement of an increase of four million was made, less than ten per cent of the lambs had been born in the range country where most of the feeding lambs come from. There is only a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent increase in the number of sheep in the United States in 1927 and nearly all the ewes that were held over are lambs coming yearlings and none of these have lambs in the range country and very few are bred in the eastern states.

On January 1, 1927, there were 41,846,000 head of sheep in the United States (this includes ewes, wethers, bucks, of all ages) and on January 1, 1928, there were 44,545,000 head. This is an increase of 2,699,000 head. Now, assuming that all

these were breeders and each had a lamb (100 per cent), Mr. Warrick is off a million and a half. The usual per cent of lambs raised on the range is 70 per cent, and in bad weather much less. I think, taking the increase of sheep over the United States, that there will be about 800,000 lambs raised this year over last.

There are about 300 market days at the big stock yards, which means that only

an extra 3000 head will have to be absorbed by Chicago, Omaha, South St. Paul, Kansas City, Denver, and other places combined each day.

If the feeders expect to get feeding lambs at bargain counter prices this year when wool is about 20 per cent higher and cattle are bringing war prices, they are likely to be disappointed.

Billings, Mont.

Jas. E. Rea

## Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills

Melbourne, March 15

Practically all danger of the beneficial effects of the early rains in the southern state of Australia being nullified by hot dry weather is now past. Welcome as the January falls were, they have been followed by even more useful storms, with the result that the autumn and winter feed position seems reasonable safe throughout the greater part of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Seldom before, and certainly not for many years, has the country looked so green in March as it is at present, and what is more, most of the rivers and creeks are running. Of course there is the usual drawback to a flush summer season, that is, the prevalence of blowflies. However, so far these have not been as bad as expected, and perhaps we shall get through to the winter without much trouble.

With ample green feed available for the ewes the prospect for the autumn lambing should be particularly bright. Here again though one hears somewhat depressing reports. It is said that, owing to the hot dry weather that prevailed at mating time, the rams did not work well. Whether it was so or not it is impossible to say until the lambing is over; it has hardly begun yet, but in any case the losses between dropping and marking ought to be exceptionally light.

It is to be hoped that the pessimistic views regarding the lambing will prove incorrect in New South Wales, as a recent return published by the Government Statistician indicates a considerable falling off in sheep numbers in that state during 1927. According to his figures the total on January 1, 1927 was 54,630-

000, and on January 1, 1928 approximately 48,000,000. If the estimates are correct there has been a decrease in stock in the largest sheep holding state of the Commonwealth of over 12 per cent in the past year, but I could point out in this connection that a considerable body of graziers and traders will not accept the statistician's figure in toto. For one thing it was thought when he published his 1927 estimate that he made the count too high, many of those well able to gauge the position believing that the total should not have been much over 50,000,000 head. Of course if it was 50,000,000 at the commencement of last year and the latest return is about correct, the decrease in 1927 is not out of the way. Drought losses in the west of the state, and exports to the other states would be sufficient to account for a drop of 4 per cent during twelve months.

At the time of writing the only other state to issue an official estimate of sheep stocks is South Australia. The preliminary total there is given as 7,400,000 on January 1, 1928, compared with 7,283,945 a year previous. It will be observed that a small increase is shown. It would undoubtedly have been greater had the season been more favorable in the north of the state, where drought losses were fairly heavy. The South Australian returns are accepted without argument.

An interesting feature in the above returns is the estimate of wool production per sheep. The average greasy weight in New South Wales was 7.6 pounds in 1927 and 8.8 pounds in 1926, and in South Australia 8.67 pounds in 1927 compared with 8.73 in the previous year. The aver-

ages include all lambs that were shorn and also crutchings. The decrease in the greasy weight is accounted for by the lighter conditions of the last clip, due to the dry time experienced by most flocks in the growing period.

The wool market has pursued a steady course since last writing, with competition as keen as ever. All descriptions of wool, except super fine, show further advances in value, the hardening tendency being particularly noticeable in the case of coarse crossbreds, specially Lincoln sorts. These have lately been making 32 cents and 34 cents per pound. It must be many years since that class of wool has realized so much in Australia. Fine crossbreds and comebacks have also been much in demand lately, Yorkshire being a strong buyer. It appears that Bradford manufacturers have found that wools purchased earlier in the season are turning out thinner in fiber than anticipated, and they are now buying the relatively stronger grades for blending. Only a few days ago comeback fleece wool sold in Sydney to 63 cents and crossbreds to 61 cents a pound, which incidentally are the

season's records for that market. Comebacks at Geelong have sold to 68 cents a pound during the month.

According to an official return issued by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers the average price realized for all descriptions of greasy wool sold in Australia between July 1 and February 29 was 39.14 cents per pound. Seeing that the average at January 31 was 37.88 cents the appreciation has been quite material. The number of bales actually sold in February was 378,717.

Wool in store waiting realization on March 1 was 258,438 bales. The bulk of these have already been cleared, and by the end of the month the market will be barer than it has been for a great number of years. The only fresh supplies expected before the 1928-29 season opens are autumn shorn clips from Queensland, and crutchings and oddments. For these sales will probably be held in June or July.

The opening date of the 1928-29 Australian wool selling season has been fixed for August 20 in Sydney, to be followed by Adelaide on September 7. It is rather

early yet to discuss the character of the clip, but it is fairly safe to assume that the bulk of it will be much more robust than the last. In that case it is probable the really fine wools will receive more attention than has been paid to them lately.

My latest advices from New Zealand are that the wool market there is quite as favorable as in Australia. Sales have been held in most centers during the last few weeks, and in practically every instance values have firmed. One of the leading firms of wool brokers has prepared a tabulation of wool offered and sold in the Dominion. From this it appears that the total offerings to January 31 were 279,777 bales, and sales 274,554 bales, the corresponding figures for last season being 258,729 offered and 245,657 sold. Thus it will be seen that only 5223 bales were passed in this season, as compared with 13,072 in 1926-27.

The long dry spell in New Zealand has been relieved to a large extent by good falls of rain, which have greatly improved the position of stockowners. Packers are still killing lambs and sheep freely for the oversea trade, and shipping heavily.

## A California Field Day for Lamb Raisers and Lamb Buyers



A part of the 1500 wool growers and their friends in attendance at the second annual field day at Hanford, California. Upper right—Serving from the Bean Kettles. Lower right—Some of the staff: Left to right, R. F. Miller, Domingo Bidegaray, L. L. Atkinson, W. P. Wing, Wallace Sullivan, and Charles Kimble.



### FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS

A total of \$134,000,000 was carried in the appropriation bill for the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the year ending June 30, 1929, in the form in which the bill left the Senate. The upper House had made numerous increases over the amounts allowed in the bill when it passed the House on March 3rd.

The National Wool Growers Association, through the secretary, testified before the Senate Committee with particular reference to the need for increased funds for the use of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture in combating predatory animals in western states and also in regard to the need of more adequate compensation for field employees of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Several years ago material increases of salaries were voted by Congress for employees of the Department of Agriculture resident in Washington, D. C. including the staff of the Bureau of Animal Industry. No adequate or permanent adjustment had ever been provided for about 1300 employees that work outside of the District of Columbia. This number includes the staff of inspectors having control of the health conditions of live stock in various states. Of these field employees 940 have been scheduled for salaries ranging from \$2400 to \$3000 per year, while a comparatively small

number reached salaries ranging between \$3000 to \$3600. The Department of Agriculture recommended an increase of \$256,870 in the salary roll for field employees, which would provide an average increase of \$200 a man. The bureau director of the budget reduced this to \$120,620. An additional \$39,300 was included by the House, which amount was increased further by \$40,000 in the Senate, making a total increase in the salary roll of field employees of \$200,000.

During the year which is to end June 30, 1928, the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture has funds for predatory animal work amounting to \$289,125; for rodent control the allotment is \$173,590. These two allotments are carried in the appropriation bill under the heading "Food Habit of Birds and Other Animals." Under this title there was included for the present year a total of \$568,000 which included over \$100,000 for other lines of related work.

In its annual estimates of appropriations needed for the year to end June 30, 1929, the Secretary of Agriculture asked for an increase of \$36,000 for predatory animal work and of \$76,000 for rodent control. Of this increase the bureau of the budget allowed \$6,000 for rodent work and \$10,000 for predatory animal control in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The House appropriation bill added an additional

\$10,000 for predatory animal work in Texas.

The agricultural bill is still in conference for adjustment of the differences in the Senate and House allowances. The increases referred to are as they stand in the Senate bill and are still subject to reduction by the conference committee.

The Senate, largely as a result of the presentation of Senator Hayden of Arizona, added an additional \$62,500 to be apportioned for predatory animal and rodent control work. It has not been announced by the Biological Survey what parts of the total increase will be used for predatory animals and for rodents. The Survey has an increase of \$80,500, which it appears should be devoted entirely to these two lines of work during the fiscal year 1929.

The expenditures in each state during the present fiscal year from federal, state and other funds are shown below separately for predatory animal and rodent control work. For the most part the amounts shown under the heading "Other Sources" are furnished by sheep owners who contribute to funds raised by local associations for cooperative work with the government agents. In Utah and in one or two other states such contributions are made and expended by the local organization itself in purchasing and delivering horses or other bait material and does not appear in this table. This plan secures more active participation by the local association and recognizes the idea that the main object and need is to obtain the fullest help and action from all interests concerned with the greatest possible reduction in the numbers of predatory animals.

### SPRING CONDITIONS AT COHAGEN, MONTANA

We had very cold weather all during April, but fortunately, when lambing commenced the first of May, a change occurred and we have had favorable weather up to the present (May 7).

The small flocks around here are lambing up to 125 per cent. Ewe lambs have been contracted at \$9.25 per head, and feeders at 10½ cents a pound, delivery to be made October 1st.

J. H. Barnes

Federal allotments and cooperative funds available from State and other sources, fiscal year 1928

States	Rodent control work				Predatory animal control work			
	Federal allotment	Cooperative funds available			Federal allotment	Cooperative funds available		
		State appropriation	Other sources	Total		State appropriation	Other sources	Total
Arizona.....	\$ 17,570	\$15,000	\$ 57,550	\$ 72,550	\$ 19,210	\$ 15,000	\$ 900	\$ 15,900
California.....	10,570	10,500	150,000	160,500	23,960	25,000	46,000	71,000
Colorado.....	10,380	10,000	10,000	20,000	17,180	15,000	20,400	35,400
Eastern United States.....	15,060			(1)				
Idaho.....	10,790	5,000	32,000	37,000	19,060	20,000	23,000	43,000
Kansas.....	6,340	1,800	9,400	11,200				
Montana.....	8,360	2,000	28,000	30,000	20,680	35,000		35,000
Nevada.....	6,800	6,000		6,000	27,700	16,250		16,250
New Mexico.....	15,180	20,000	4,000	24,000	15,170	30,000		30,000
Oregon.....	14,040	2,500	10,000	12,500	23,400	18,500	17,800	36,300
So. Dakota and Nebraska.....	1,700				12,103	17,800		17,800
Texas.....	29,405	7,000	30,000	37,000	17,467	26,800	58,000	84,800
Utah.....	9,960	5,000	4,500	9,500	26,710	35,000		35,000
Washington.....	11,820		15,900	15,900	19,440	30,000	6,200	36,200
Wyoming.....	9,825	5,000	17,000	22,000	21,040	22,000	10,000	32,000
Miscellaneous.....	8,540				7,850			
Total.....	\$166,340	\$89,800	\$368,350	\$458,150	\$270,970	\$306,350	\$182,300	\$488,650

1 Amount of cooperative funds for eastern United States district not known.

2 Federal allotment to Texas has been increased \$1,550 since Federal allotments made.



## What Some of the Eastern Retailers Have to Say About the New Methods of Cutting Lamb Carcasses

The splendid success of the Eastern Lamb Campaign during the month of March was reported in the April issue of the National Wool Grower. The story of the April program is one of even more striking results obtained from this effort to stimulate greater interest in lamb among retailers, packers, hotel and restaurant men, and others.

The March schedule included six cities. April operations were geared up to cover twice that many. All arrangements were made in advance of a visit to a city, thus making it possible to cover territory rapidly and effectively. A two-day whirlwind campaign was conducted in each of the twelve cities on the April itinerary.

Both retailers and packers of New England, where the first half of the April campaign was carried on, were exceptionally enthusiastic over the new lamb cutting methods as presented by D. W. Hartzell, lamb demonstration specialist. The campaign literature, including the booklet "Cashing In on Lamb" and the "Lamb Menu Book," was in big demand.

A vivid picture of the effectiveness of the campaign is given in a letter received by the National Live Stock and Meat Board from John A. Kotal of Chicago, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers. Mr. Kotal recently returned from a trip through the East during which he had occasion to visit several of the lamb campaign cities. He writes as follows:

Gentlemen:

In a recent trip east it so happened that I spent considerable time in several of the cities in which your Lamb Campaign was conducted. I was pleased with this opportunity to observe firsthand what was being accomplished in this work and I want you to know that from these observations I am convinced that the Lamb Campaign is one of the most successful undertakings of its kind I have ever seen.

Everywhere I went I found a keen interest among the meat re-

tailers. I talked with a number of leaders of the business in the various cities and without exception they expressed real enthusiasm over the work. They were already profiting by the new lamb cutting methods and said they were sure that the benefits to be derived were of a permanent nature.

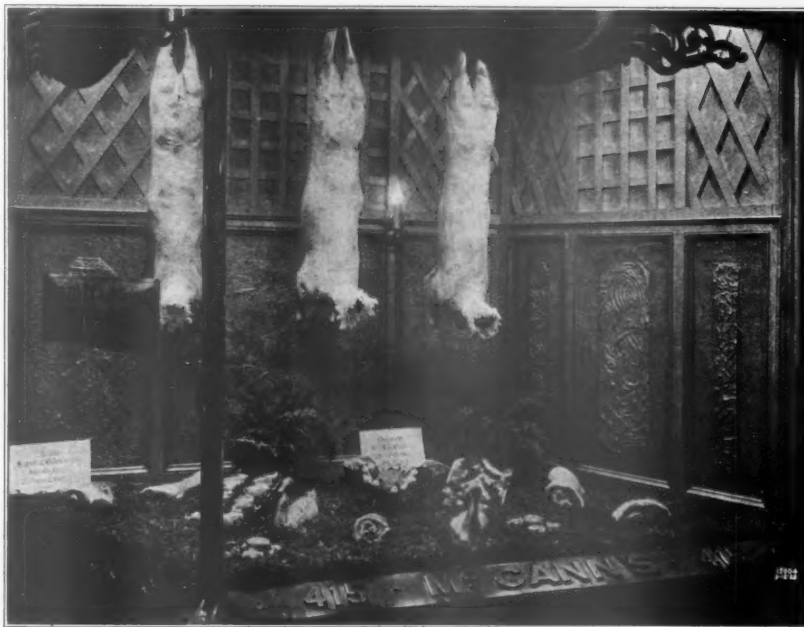
In short, the campaign has gone over one hundred per cent from the standpoint of benefits to producers, retailers and consumers alike. The value of both the cutting demonstrations and the educational lamb literature is thoroughly appreciated by the trade. The booklet, "Cashing In on Lamb," showing principally by pictures, how to make the various lamb cuts has won unanimous approval. Any number of retailers told me they would like to see the Board get out more literature along this line.

Yours for continued success,

John A. Kotal, Executive Secretary, National Association of Retail Meat Dealers.

The April program opened in Worcester, Mass., March 31 and April 2. Here two meetings were held—one for packers and one for retailers. A similar schedule was followed throughout the month with amplifications here and there. In a number of instances meetings were arranged on the spur of the moment for employees of chain stores, etc. These were in addition to the principal group meetings.

The lamb demonstrations in Worcester were truly a great success, to use the words of one of the packers in that city. Two hundred retailers turned out for the demonstration and forty packer representatives were in attendance for the meeting of that group. On April 3 the program was taken up in Providence, R. I. The reception there is reflected in a report issued by the local chairman of arrangements.



One pleasing reaction to the lamb campaign work has been the readiness with which retailers have taken up the idea of special displays of lamb in their shops and windows. In every city visited, attractive lamb windows were featured by any number of markets. Above is a display window by The McCann Company of Pittsburg. It is typical of the manner in which retailers are now taking advantage of the decorative possibilities of lamb.

"All managers of the packing houses, as well as their lamb salesmen and regular salesmen, numbering 67, attended a very enthusiastic meeting held at 4:30 P. M., Tuesday afternoon, April 3rd, for the purpose of viewing the demonstration by Mr. Hartzell.

"It is needless to say that Mr. Hartzell made a decided hit with everyone present and his ability in cutting and handling the lambs was the cause of much comment after the meeting, especially in his treatment of the forequarters, which are always a drag with all retailers. I am sure that the knowledge gained by those present will stand them in good stead in the future.

"I am looking forward to a big meeting of the retailers and market men of our city to be held tonight at 8:00 P. M. and will advise you later of the results."

Reports to the National Live Stock and Meat Board on cities which followed throughout the month were equally as pleasing. From Hartford, Conn., for instance, came the following:

"We are writing to tell you how much we appreciate having had Mr. Hartzell with us during the lamb demonstration work.

"We held one meeting in the afternoon for the packing house managers and their salesmen, at which about 50 were in attendance.

"We held another meeting in the evening at the local Chamber of Commerce Headquarters for the retail meat dealers. There were in attendance about 130 of the principal retailers in the city, and this is considered a large attendance of this kind for Hartford, and the show went over in big style, creating a great deal of comment and enthusiasm.

"Instead of 35 minutes, our meeting in the evening lasted two hours, due to informal discussion after the actual demonstration work.

"This kind of work is sure a

step in the right direction, and we were very pleased to have been able to serve as we did."

Here is another from Albany, N. Y.

"On Mr. Hartzell's visit to Albany we held two very successful demonstrations. One was held April 14. We had from 115 to 120 wholesalers and their salesmen at this demonstration. Everyone was well pleased and interested in the different cuts made by Mr. Hartzell.

"Monday evening, April 16, we held a very successful retailer's demonstration at 124 State St. This is in the central business area of the city. About 200 retailers attended this demonstration. Everyone took a great interest in the way Mr. Hartzell demonstrated and the different cuts he prepared were all closely examined and all agreed that the demonstration was very beneficial to them. Many of the retailers are still talking about it and many have adopted the new cuts he showed them how to make."

The enthusiasm in Binghamton, N. Y. is reflected in the following letter from the local campaign chairman in that city:

"The retail trade was surely delighted with the wonderful demonstration put on by your Mr. Hartzell, April 19th, and we all feel that he can truthfully be called a lamb wizard.

"There were 121 retailers attending this meeting. Feel this was very good when you consider they have no association of any kind. In fact, this is really the first meeting ever held of the retail meat dealers in this city. They were very enthusiastic after seeing Mr. Hartzell demonstrate the new methods in cutting lamb, and they all feel that they will be able to sell more lamb and at the same time do so on a better basis, as a good many of the high class markets have been having quite some trouble in disposing of their forequarters at a profit.

"The writer feels quite positive that upon Mr. Hartzell's next visit to Binghamton we will be able to get them to turn out one hundred per cent."

Appreciation of the lamb work by retailers generally is typified by the following letter coming from Rickert's Market of Albany, N. Y.

"I wish to take the liberty of informing you that I had the pleasure of attending your lamb demonstration held in Albany, N. Y.

"The following morning after the demonstration I cut up a lamb in the same manner as you demonstrated. Although I had a little more difficulty than you in doing the same, practice will teach us in time to do it with ease. The trade seemed to be very much enthused over these various cuts and I am quite sure the buying public will use the cheaper cuts such as necks and breast, which have always been a drag on the market. From now on I believe that these cuts mentioned and made up under your method will move very fast.

"Thanking you for your information, I am

Respectfully yours,

H. J. Rickert.

The complete April schedule of demonstrations was as follows: March 31-April 2, Worcester, Mass.; April 3-4, Providence, R. I.; April 5-6, New Haven, Conn.; April 7-9, Waterbury, Conn.; April 10-11, Hartford, Conn.; April 12-13, Springfield, Mass.; April 14-16, Albany, N. Y.; April 17-18, Utica, N. Y.; April 19-20, Binghamton, N. Y.; April 21-23, Syracuse, N. Y.; April 24-25, Rochester, and April 26-28, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mr. Hartzell is scheduled for the Cincinnati butchers' meeting on May 25, and also for the annual convention of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association at San Angelo on July 27. He will also appear at the Kansas Meat Dealers' convention at Manhattan, Kansas. To help defray the expenses of Mr. Hartzell's appearance at this latter event, the Kansas Sheep Association has made a substantial appropriation.

## Changes in Volume and Quality of Farm Raised Lambs

The "native" lamb industry is in an evolutionary stage. Animal husbandry specialists, county advisors, and others preaching the gospel of improvement have exerted a powerful influence on the character of production in this sphere, a prospect existing that the old-style, much derided and inferior native lamb—bucky, wormy and otherwise disreputable—is passing. Instead of filling the market hopper during the July to November period with a mass of "dinger" lambs, the farmer is already approximating western quality and condition. Instead of dumping regardless of condition or price, he is carrying the thin end of his lamb crop into a feeding period which continued this year until well along in January. Not only is he trimming his lambs in approved western fashion, but he is paying attention to parasitical problems that promise solution, meaning disappearance of the wormy lamb, and making a large percentage adaptable to fall and winter feeding.

Three-fourths of the cull lambs reaching market from the farming area may be attributed to the presence of stomach worms and other parasites of the intestinal tract. Lambs raised on pastures in which the larva of the stomach worm is not found do not become infested, but the sheep sharps have been on a still hunt for a means of rendering pasture flocks immune, the purpose being not only to make superior fat native lambs, but to adapt the thin end of the crop at weaning time to the feed lot. Experiments at the Illinois station by W. G. Kammlade determined that a three cubic centimeter dose of carbon tetrachloride was more effective in removing stomach worms than any other treatment used. By this system cull native lambs can be purchased at much lower prices than westerns and in skillful hands, castrated and finished with profitable results.

But, ignoring the practicability of such an operation, clean sweet clover pastures or the use of efficient vermifuges open opportunity for successful and economic production of lambs in cultivated areas in the low altitude. Retention of

young ewes for this purpose has been on a larger scale than is generally sensed. During the past six months the writer has traversed by daylight much of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, to be impressed with the rapid expansion of the industry. In Kentucky flocks have also multiplied and what has occurred in the Dakotas is an open secret. Missouri, for some reason or other, is an exception, that state having sent a large number of ewes to Kentucky. Tennessee has also been a laggard.

By liming eastern soils prodigious quantities of sweet clover for grazing and soiling purposes can be grown, and having corrected acidity in this manner, alfalfa will follow, furnishing abundance of winter feed without which economical sheep husbandry is impossible. Sweet clover pasture is calculated to solve, in a large measure, the worm handicap which has made lamb raising on permanent, infected pasture hazardous if not economically impossible heretofore. Abolishing permanent pasture is already revolutionizing sheep husbandry in the farming states where the area in sweet clover is increasing at a rapid rate. Liming, supplemented with application of rock phosphate after the formula of the late Cyril G. Hopkins, promises to work wonders. Having lost their city market for timothy hay and oats, farmers are looking for substitute crops and sweet clover pasture offers a way out. As it is a two-year crop, necessitating frequent alternation with grain crops, parasites are automatically destroyed by cultivation and the pests that have handicapped native lamb raising will disappear. Ewes running on sweet clover give a maximum flow of milk which is the secret of success in lamb production.

How this advance in the number and quality of farm-raised lambs will affect the market for western feeder stock is a problem. To some extent it may curtail purchases of range feeders for eastern states and at the same time the improve-

ment in quality should be a help to maintaining a steadier price level in the fall months.

Farmers have bought western lambs for the purpose of consuming aftermath and other roughage, harvesting corn and fertilizing land. If this can be accomplished with native stock the latter will have the preference as, for several years past, investment in western lambs has been hazardous and frequently unprofitable. Western feeders have a distinct advantage over corn-belt farmers in replenishing feed lots, both in shrinkage and mortality in transit. The farmer feeder must either go to the central market to buy his lambs or make long-distance contracts with western dealers, a custom that has been unsatisfactory from many angles. By growing his own lambs or securing them in contiguous territory his location disadvantage is reduced, if not nullified.

Obviously salvage of the thin end of the native crop for fall and winter finishing purposes will relieve the fall market of the former grist of bucky and wormy lambs that from time immemorial has not only demoralized the live market at that season, but filled the dressed market with an enormous quantity of inferior meat, creating prejudice against lamb and adversely affecting the price of good meat. But such distribution would automatically curtail demand for thin western lambs in farming feeding circles.

At the recent meeting of the Michigan Lamb Feeders Association at Lansing considerable testimony, respecting winter feeding of native lambs was given, most of it favorable to the operation, which generated an opinion that in a few years the state will be in a position independent of western contributions.

Regardless of what may impend the fact remains that native lamb production is at the expanding stage of the cycle. Farm feeders have not experienced unqualified success in handling western lambs and are anxious to increase an annual double crop, wool and lambs, that enables them to evade the drudgery of dairying and the uncertainties of an up-and-down hog market. Stock cattle are both scarce and high and growing beef cattle in the farm area, except in a limit-



ed way, is improbable. The ewe and the lamb afford a short route to revenue. Current interest in wool and lamb production heralds a broad, constant demand for breeding stock at good prices.

J. E. Poole

#### AMERICAN CORRIEDALE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Mr. J. H. King, of Laramie, Wyoming, was chosen to head the American Corriedale Association for this year, such action being taken at the annual meeting held at Laramie, Wyoming, March 31, 1928. Mr. F. S. King, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who was formerly president of the organization, was made secretary, and Fred S. Hultz, of Laramie, vice-president. The directors named are: Walter Priddy, Davis, Calif.; J. M. Jones, Texas A. & M. College, College Station, Texas; and M. E. King, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In addition to the regular business routine, some changes and additions were made in the rules governing the association. Transfers within sixty days are to be made at 25 cents per head; after that date, or for non-members, the fee will be 50 cents a head. It was also provided that the secretary should be empowered to inspect the flocks of members of the organization and make recommendations regarding their fitness for registration. If he, or any director authorized to make such inspections, shall recommend that a flock be stricken from the records and the recommendation is sustained by the vote of the directors, such action will be taken.

The directors held a meeting at the close of the regular session and gave their approval to a list of premiums, totaling \$100, for the Kansas City Royal. The president was given authority to appoint a committee to revise the rules of the association.

#### SWEET CLOVER PASTURES

No crop in the United States has come forward in the past five years as rapidly as sweet clover. This heretofore much despised "weed" against which some of the middle states once passed legislation is found as an eminently respectable member of the farm crops family, all the way from the rocky hills of Maine to the

widespread plains of the Inland Empire, and even west of the Cascades it is succeeding now and then in some particularly favored locations.

Probably its greatest development has been in the Middle West and there the rather conservative agricultural state of Illinois enthusiastically presents some figures. Illinois claimed nearly a million acres in 1927. Iowa trails right along, Minnesota also, and Ohio and Indiana. Up in North Dakota where much has been said and considerable accomplished toward diversified farming, we find sweet clover taking its place; likewise all through Montana on both irrigated and dry lands. In the Yakima Valley the formerly famous bluegrass pastures have for four or five years been giving ground to sweet clover, which under careful handling there reseeds itself and furnishes much more feed than the mixed grass pastures. Over in Idaho in some of the dry wheat lands they are sowing sweet clover as a soil improver where moisture is sufficient.

In Oregon sweet clover has made most rapid headway in the Blue Mountain regions, particularly in Union County. Here it is, **the best pasture on the dry lands** and on the irrigated lands its only rival is Ladino clover. In this county the new crop is proving desirable as a pasture for farm flocks of sheep, as well as for dairy cattle. In Union County seventy farmers raised sweet clover last year and practically half of this number are using it for pasturing of farm flocks of sheep.

J. H. Dobbin, of Wallowa County, who is building up an excellent flock of Hampshires, is particularly well pleased with his sweet clover pasture from which he obtained excellent results last year, the second year of the stand. He advises that this pasture furnished the most feed per sheep per acre over a four and a half months' period and expects to increase the carrying capacity. H. H. Huron pastured his farm flock of Hampshires at the rate of five head per acre for five months on a two-year-old stand. R. O. Wheeler was obtaining similar results, but late in the season he let the sweet clover grow in order that it might reseed itself. He is enthusiastic over the sweet clover pasture

and has a very definite line on its value as he rotates his flock between his bluegrass and sweet clover pastures about every two weeks. In this county the yellow blossom biennial variety is the choice. It is seeded at the rate of ten to twelve pounds per acre at the usual alfalfa seeding time. The land is prepared in the same manner as for alfalfa and the seed sown with a grain drill or grass seeder. Under those conditions where alfalfa is commonly seeded with a nurse crop, the sweet clover may also be accompanied by a nurse crop.

In Union County the favorite nurse crop is a light seeding of one of the Federation wheats. In parts of Wyoming and Idaho sweet clover is sown in the winter time on a stand of winter wheat. When handled in this manner about fifty per cent more seed is used and the unhulled seed should be used. In most of the eastern and central Oregon districts an application of fifty pounds of sulphur per acre greatly stimulates the growth of sweet clover.

There are four generally recognized species of sweet clover in the United States. Two of these are biennial, one the white blossom and one yellow. The two annuals have but little place in the Northwest as by use of either of the biennial species continued stands can be secured by allowing a reasonable amount of reseeding. The biennial yellow is a very low growing type. In the Pacific Northwest the biennial white is superior in every respect, but in most other places second in desirability to the biennial yellow.

One advantage of sweet clover is that it will grow satisfactorily on soils which are strongly alkaline, and in many sections of the West is the most alkali resistant forage that can be grown.

The best information is that sweet clover causes less bloat in live stock than any other legume. Farmers in the Yakima Valley challenge one to prove definitely a case of bloat tracing to sweet clover pasture. In a recent survey made through the Farm Managers' Association in North Dakota, approximately one-half the farmers stated that they could trace some bloat to sweet clover pastures, but all agreed that the cases were light. The

dairy herds of the University of Idaho and the Washington State College have pastured very successfully on sweet clover for several years.

Corvallis, Oregon

F. L. Ballard

### LOWER FREIGHT RATES ON ARIZONA WOOL

A reduction of 28 cents per hundred in the freight rate on wool shipped from Kingman, Arizona, to Los Angeles is soon to become effective as the result of the final decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in respect to class rates in the Southwest. There will be corresponding reductions from other points in Arizona and from some parts of New Mexico, Texas and California. In the case of Kingman the reduction is from the present rate of \$1.11 to 83 cents per hundred. The recent case concerned class rates but the change in wool rates comes about automatically as a result of the decision in the Wool Rates Investigation Case of 1923, when the Interstate Commerce fixed westbound wool rates at 55 per cent of first class rates.

The Los Angeles interests and the steamship lines have announced that the change of rates will result in considerable increase in the amount of Arizona wool going to Boston by way of Los Angeles for transfer to steamships at that port. The present railroad rate from Kingman to Boston is \$2.58. The new rate via Los Angeles and the Panama canal will be \$1.96. The ship rate is \$1.00 per hundred from Los Angeles to Boston, and charges for reloading from cars to ship, wharfage, and insurance total 13.5 cents, insurance being figured for 40 cent wool at a charge of 25 cents per one hundred dollars valuation.

In connection with securing advances upon bills of lading for wool the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company announces that shippers can draw against wools loaded on cars by depositing their local bills of lading with the bank with instructions to pass the documents through their correspondent Los Angeles bank with instructions that the bank at Los Angeles exchange the railroad bill of lading for a steamship bill of lading.

In its studies and reports of operation costs of sheep raisers, the Idaho Wool Growers Association has conducted a very useful form of business service to its members and to wool growers generally. The results of the 1927 study were reported to the Idaho convention in January by W. R. Barber, who has been chairman of the committee in charge of this project since it was first started in 1924. The figures also were printed as a supplement to the Idaho Association bulletin, but are here reprinted in part as a means of showing clearly how net profits are affected by changes in weather and feed conditions, lamb percentages, markets and other changing factors.

The form in which the Idaho results are reported do not show variations in returns as attributable to locations or efficiency in management. They are particularly calculated to afford a showing as to what the sheep business, as conducted by all the outfits included in the study, actually returns, and particularly to furnish comparisons of results secured in different years.

The reports of the studies also permit comparison of returns from range flocks and farm flocks, from outfits that lamb early in sheds with those that follow range lambing, and of Idaho figures with those obtainable from other states or from other countries.

The 1927 figures cover 42 outfits having a total of 182,010 sheep. Practically all of these concerns were included in the figures of the two previous years, so that the comparisons as made are fair, regardless of whether the concerns included are altogether representatives of the whole state.

In fact the Idaho Association's committee on cost of production does not present its figures as an average for the state. They do show yearly variations in different items of expense and income and for that and the other purposes referred to are highly valuable.

### Average Expense in 1927

	Per Ewe
Hay and Grain .....	\$2.81
Labor .....	2.27
Supplies .....	.57
Pasture and Range .....	.46
Shearing .....	.24
Taxes .....	.24
Interest paid .....	.65
Loss in ewes .....	1.10
Depreciation in ewes .....	1.03
Miscellaneous .....	.87
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$10.24</b>

### Receipts Per Ewe, 1927

Wool .....	\$2.79
Lamb .....	8.19
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$10.98</b>

In the above the entire lamb crop is included at the market price. The cost of buying or raising ewes to keep up the flocks is covered by the items for loss and depreciation in ewes.

The Idaho plan of studying costs makes no allowance for interest on investment or working capital except such amounts as actually are paid for interest. In 1927 this amounted on the average to 65 cents per ewe. There was a net average profit of 74 cents. The combination of these two items, \$1.39 can properly be used as representing the total return upon the investment. It is equal to 8 per cent on \$17.37. Idaho ewes could be conservatively inventoried in 1927 materially above \$10 per head and the value of owned land, crop land and other equipment in Idaho outfits undoubtedly averages considerably more than \$7.37 per ewe which is the difference between an inventory of \$10 per ewe and a total investment of \$17.37, the amount upon which 8 per cent was earned.

It is not a surprise to students of sheep economics to find that even in years of feed and market conditions as favorable as they were last year well managed concerns earn less than 8 per cent upon the amount invested. In this, the wool grower is like other kinds of farmers. His average return upon investment is much below what is considered necessary in other industries. Those who continue in the business are able to do so because the amounts they take out of earnings for themselves are adjusted to what is found on hand without setting aside any-

thing to cover interest upon invested capital. If the average sheep concern were incorporated and had issues of stock or bonds for its capital investments, the earnings paid to the holders of such stock or bonds would not make much of a showing.

A comparison of the figures compiled in this Idaho study during each of the last four years is shown below:

#### A COMPARISON OF EXPENSE AND INCOME FOR FOUR YEARS

	1924 13 Outfits 123,000 Ewes	1925 37 Outfits 148,000 Ewes	1926 58 Outfits 189,200 Ewes	1927 42 Outfits 182,000 Ewes
Expense per ewe:				
Hay, Grain and pasture .....	\$2.93	\$3.43	\$2.80	\$3.27
Loss and depreciation in ewes....	2.00	1.90	1.89	2.13
Interest paid out .....	.84	.93	.77	.65
Total of all outlay .....	9.30	10.37	9.33	10.24
Income per ewe:				
Total .....	10.17	11.96	11.36	10.98
From wool .....	3.16	3.28	2.92	2.79
From lambs .....	7.01	8.68	8.44	8.19
Profit per ewe:	.87	1.59	2.03	.74
Seasonal Conditions:				
Preceding Fall .....	Excellent	Very dry	Excellent	Very dry
Preceding Winter .....	Moderate	Moderate	Very open	Moderate
Spring .....	Good	Excellent	Good	Late-Stormy
Summer .....	Dry	Excellent	Dry	Good
Per cent of lambs matured .....	88.3	87.9	93.4	85.3
Average weight per lamb (lbs.)....	69.8	78.5	74.5	78.1
Selling price of lambs per pound (cents) .....	11.38	12.6	12.1	12.3
Weight per fleece (lbs.) .....	8.6	7.9	9	8.6
Price of wool per pound (cents)....	37	41.6	32.4	32.4

The profits in 1926 were the largest in the four years covered by the above figures. The fall, winter and spring range conditions all were good and this caused the lowest feed cost and the largest lamb yield in the years covered. The dry summer reduced the weight of lambs and they sold on an average market. The more favorable returns in that year plainly were due to weather conditions. It can be considered that equally efficient management obtained through the forty-two outfits included in the report for 1927. In making that year's crop, however, there was a dry fall and late spring with a high feed bill. The yield of lambs was the lowest in the four years. The income per ewe through lambs was the smallest since 1924 and the wool income below any of the other years. The net result of these things was the lowest net returns for any of the years.

The analysis of such figures as these suggests that larger net returns can be obtained and undoubtedly are obtained in many outfits in which the manage-

ment is such as to keep losses below the average without adding unduly to the expense for labor.

It also calls for study of such questions as giving extra feed in dry fall seasons in order to keep up the lamb yields; the possibility of securing larger normal yields of lambs and the breeding and management to increase the weight and value of lambs and without increasing

expense by as much as the extra returns to be obtained.

#### MARYLAND SELLS SHEEP TO TENNESSEE

With the consignment this week from Hyattsville, Prince George's County, of a carload of purebred Hampshire rams to Tennessee lamb producers, for the first time in its history, Maryland has taken its place with a select list of states capable of exporting high quality breeding sheep.

The rams were chosen from six different flocks in the state by C. C. Flannery, of the University of Tennessee Extension Service, and K. A. Clark, livestock specialist for the University of Maryland Extension Service and secretary of the Maryland Sheep Growers Association.

The thirty-two rams composing the shipment were consigned to Waverly, Tennessee, where they will be sold at auction to commercial lamb producers of that state who specialize in the production of high class winter lambs. Lambs

from Tennessee hold a high reputation on the leading markets of the country, arriving generally during the months of April, May and June. Many of them find their way to the Baltimore, Philadelphia and Jersey City markets.

The majority of the animals included in the consignment can be traced directly to importations of high quality breeding stock made by Maryland breeders themselves several years ago, according to Mr. Clark. In 1924 the University of Maryland Extension Service assisted breeders in importing a carload of purebred ewes from Idaho and in the following year the agricultural department of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad cooperated with breeders in bringing in a similar shipment from Missouri. Twenty-two of the rams to Tennessee came from parent stock of these two sources.

There has been a marked increase in purebred sheep, suitable for breeding stock, during recent years in Maryland, it is pointed out by Mr. Clark. Several successful sales of breeding stock have been held in the state by the Maryland Sheep Growers Association with consignments of high quality from Maryland breeders. The next one is scheduled to be held at the University of Maryland on Farmers' Day, May 26, when twenty-eight Maryland-bred sheep will be offered at auction.

There are great possibilities for Maryland sheep growers who can supply breeding stock for Maryland and the territory immediately south, says Mr. Clark. Approximately one hundred purebred rams have been required annually during the past few years to meet the demands of Maryland producers of commercial lambs and the outlet in the states to the south is considerably larger.

#### SELLING WOOL

The Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association has recently circulated an interesting pamphlet under the title, "Selling Wool." The methods employed by the cooperative in handling the wools of its members are described in some detail, and twelve points showing the necessity for cooperation in the marketing of wool are presented for the consideration of wool growers.



## PUBLIC DOMAIN LEASING IN MONTANA

Leasing of grazing lands in three townships in Montana is provided for in a law recently enacted at Washington. The lands in three specified townships of government land are to be leased by the Secretary of the Interior. The lessees must be 'stockmen owning lands within or adjacent to the said area,' and the leases issued under such rules as the Secretary may prescribe. Leases may also be made to regularly organized associations of stockmen. No attempt is made to define a 'stockman.'

The leases are to be for periods of not to exceed ten years, to be for grazing and range development purposes only, and no homestead entries will be possible during the period of the leases.

## TWO SEASONS' WORK IN WYOMING IN CULLING TO INCREASE FLEECE WEIGHTS

Wool improvement work by means of culling and fleece-weighting demonstrations was started in Wyoming at the beginning of the 1926 shearing season. Figures for the second year have just been secured and summarized. In 1926 three co-operators were secured, one each in Sheridan, Natrona and Uintah counties. Work with the band in Sheridan County had to be discontinued after the first year, due to the owner selling out. To make up for the loss of this co-operator two new bands were added in 1927, one in Big Horn and one in Park County making a total of four demonstrations now being carried on. Requests for the work were also received from Albany, Johnson and Hot Springs counties but because of possible conflicts in shearing dates, it was felt that it was not advisable to spread out too far. It is possible that in 1928 the project may be carried into other counties providing suitable co-operators can be secured.

The following numerical record shows the comparative fleece weights for the years 1926 and 1927 on the D. N. Spears clip at Casper, Wyoming:

	1926	
Shearing Dates .....	5/29 to 6/3	5/30 to 6/4
Shearing done by hand .....	7 shearers	8 shearers
Shearing price .....	15c ewe; 30c ram	15c ewe; 30c ram
Total sheep shorn .....	2537 head	2665 head
Total weight of wool .....	23,027.5 lbs.	25,113.0 lbs.
Average fleece weight (all fleeces) .....	9.07 lbs.	9.42 lbs.
Number of sacks of wool .....	61	66
Sale price of wool per lb. ....	33 $\frac{3}{4}$ c	30 $\frac{1}{4}$ c

### EWES

	1899	1984
Number ewes shorn .....	7.0 lbs.	7.5 lbs.
Culling standard on light fleeces .....	7.5 lbs.	8.0 lbs.
Number of ewes culled account light fleeces .....	133 head	121 head
Number of ewes culled account short fleeces .....	95 head	60 head
Total number of ewes culled .....	228 head	181 head
Total weight of all ewe fleeces .....	18,449.7 lbs.	20,056.5 lbs.
Total weight of uncultured ewe fleeces .....	16,906.0 lbs.	18,740.6 lbs.
Total weight of culled ewe fleeces .....	1,543.7 lbs.	1,315.9 lbs.
Percentage of ewes culled account light and short fleeces .....	12%	9.1%
Percentage of ewes culled account light fleeces .....	7%	6.1%
Percentage of ewes culled account short fleeces .....	5%	3.0%
Average weight of all ewe fleeces .....	9.7 lbs.	10.1 lbs.
Average weight of ewe fleeces above standard .....	10.2 lbs.	10.4 lbs.
Average weight of ewe fleeces below standard .....	6.8 lbs.	6.7 lbs.
Weight of heaviest ewe fleece .....	17.3 lbs.	16.8 lbs.
Weight of lightest ewe fleece .....	3.1 lbs.	4.5 lbs.

### YEARLINGS

	611	662
Actual shrinkage .....	59.4%	
Culling standard (light fleeces) .....	5.5 lbs.	6 lbs.
Culling standard (short fleeces) .....	6.0 lbs.	100 head
Number yearlings culled acct. light fleeces .....	76 head	15 head
Number yearlings culled acct. short fleeces .....	23 head	115 head
Total number of yearlings culled .....	99 head	4829.8 lbs.
Total weight of all yearling fleeces .....	4251.6 lbs.	4196.9 lbs.
Total weight of uncultured yearling fleeces .....	3753.0 lbs.	632.9 lbs.
Total weight of culled yearling fleeces .....	498.6 lbs.	
Percentage of yearlings culled account short and light fleeces .....	16.2%	17.3%
Percentage of yearlings culled account light fleeces .....	12.4%	15.1%
Percentage culled account short fleeces .....	3.7%	2.2%
Average weight of all yearling fleeces .....	6.95 lbs.	7.3 lbs.
Average weight of yearling fleeces above standard .....	7.3 lbs.	7.67 lbs.
Average weight of yearling fleeces below standard .....	5.03 lbs.	5.5 lbs.
Weight of heaviest yearling fleece .....	11.0 lbs.	12.0 lbs.
Weight of lightest fleece .....	3.2 lbs.	4.0 lbs.

### WETHERS

	27 head	19 head
Number of wethers shorn .....	326.2 lbs.	226.7 lbs.
Total weight of wether fleeces .....	12.1 lbs.	11.9 lbs.
Average weight of wether fleeces .....	17.0 lbs.	15.0 lbs.
Weight of heaviest wether fleece .....	8.2 lbs.	9.4 lbs.
Weight of lightest fleece .....		

	EWES		YEARLINGS		WETHERS	
	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927
Sheep shearing 17 lbs. and under 18 lbs. ....	2	0	0	0	1	0
" " 16 " " " 17 " .....	2	1	0	0	0	0
" " 15 " " " 16 " .....	5	8	0	0	1	1
" " 14 " " " 15 " .....	24	31	0	0	4	1
" " 13 " " " 14 " .....	53	85	0	0	0	3
" " 12 " " " 13 " .....	140	161	0	1	10	5
" " 11 " " " 12 " .....	230	318	1	1	3	6
" " 10 " " " 11 " .....	371	506	10	10	5	1
" " 9 " " " 10 " .....	424	452	40	59	2	2
" " 8 " " " 9 " .....	363	247	97	142	1	0
" " 7 " " " 8 " .....	187	119	153	196	0	0
" " 6 " " " 7 " .....	64	29	203	163	0	0
" " 5 " " " 6 " .....	29	4	77	73	0	0
" " 4 " " " 5 " .....	4	3	23	17	0	0
" " 3 " " " 4 " .....	1	0	7	0	0	0
	1899	1984	611	662	27	19

D. J. Robertson, Live Stock Specialist.

# THE WOOL SACK

## THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET

The new clip wool season is opening slowly, but on the whole quite favorably for both growers and dealers. So much of the new clip is under contract, at least in certain sections, that the growers have comparatively little interest in future developments. Where this is not the case, and there is still wool to be sold after shearing, there is considerable encouragement for the growers whose clips are still unsold in the fact that latest contracts reported in Montana and Wyoming, and possibly also in Oregon, have been at the top figures of the season. There is more encouragement in this for the grower than for the dealer. The former has secured a high average return for his wool, while the latter needs a little recession in order to bring about a profitable turnover.

However, there is a chance of a fair profit at present rates in the wools coming forward from the early contracts, leaving to future developments the question of a similar favorable turnover on the later contracts. The keen edge of the demand is still for medium wools, and large sales have been made—of spot wools when to be had and of the wools being graded out of the current arrivals, where the same have been sold to arrive. It is believed that the bulk of the resales of contracts has been of wools on the medium side, though it is claimed by some dealers that they have been able to find a market for whatever fine wools have been coming forward from the West.

Arrivals to date have been far behind last year. According to some leading receivers receipts of new clip wools to date have been less than 40 per cent of last year's arrivals to the same date. Shearing delayed by unfavorable weather is given as the reason for the slow development of the new clip season, but it is expected that the season will shortly be in full swing in many sections. Shearing operations are reported from various states, notably Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Colorado. In this market wools from all

these states are offered either in bulk or by sample, and are attracting favorable attention, especially where there is a medium edge to the offerings.

Moderate increase has been noted lately in the receipts of wool from the West, but the lateness of the season is indicated by the fact that receipts for the month of April were far behind those reported for

## MAY WOOL SALES

The Kinney clip at Cokeville, Wyoming, consisting mainly of cross-bred wool was reported as having sold on May 2 to Swift and Company at 41½ cents. At the same time Dewey Gould and Company took the Cokeville Land and Live Stock Company clip of 125,000 pounds at the same figure.

At Malta, Montana, 42 cents was paid. The Cunningham clip at Pendleton, Oregon, was sold at the first of the month at 35 cents, which considering shrinkage, is in line with the other sales mentioned.

The Wool Grower received the following report of the opening wool sales at London and Brisbane on May 9:

"London opening large attendance, good competition. Compared with closing prices previous series good and medium Merinos and fine prices unchanged. Faulty Merinos and scoureds five per cent lower.

"Brisbane first day opening selection limited. France and Japan principal buyers, Russia not buying. Prices well up to last Sydney sale. Sixty-fours to seventies combing \$1.14; sixty-fours combing \$1.06; sixty-fours to seventies good average combings \$1.10; sixty-fours to seventies top making \$1.06; all clean landed Boston in bond, exchange at \$4.87½ ninety-day letter of credit."

the same month last year—comparative figures for April being 8,138,200 pounds this year and 9,522,000 pounds last year. By the middle of May, transactions in all primary markets ought to be in full swing, and shipments to the East be of a seasonal character.

Thus far market developments have been narrow. Until very recently the bulk of the trading has been either in the early Arizona wools, or in the wools shorn before lambing in southern Idaho or wherever that practice obtains. Some

of the early Arizona wools have turned out very light and attractive this year and some of the best clips, mainly French combing in character, but with a percentage of staple, are being held up to \$1.15 clean, though buyers are not yet ready to pay that figure. On the other hand, heavier or less desirable wools are selling at \$1.05 for average and \$1.08 to \$1.10 for better clips.

The Idaho early wools have sold at around 46 cents for the medium wools, the clean cost being estimated at not less than \$1.05 for the best three-eighths-blood and \$1 for quarter-blood. At these figures there has been some competition for these wools, and the same is true where the medium grades are being sold out of the new arrivals from the West. Regarding the position of the fine wool content of these new arrivals there is more uncertainty. In some houses, fine wools are said to be accumulating to some extent, but in others it is claimed that everything arriving is being passed over to the mills without delay. Nevada wools are selling even though the bulk of the current offerings is of the French combing type, prices ranging from \$1.05 to \$1.10 clean.

Samples of the new Utah wools have been received here and are reported to be showing more than usual irregularity in both condition and quality. These samples indicate that in some sections sand storms have been experienced, which has made some of the clips unusually heavy. This is all right from the growers' standpoint, though it is pretty tough on the eastern buyer who contracted the clip on its average condition. On the other hand the best wools in Colorado are reported to be turning out very well indeed. All the above confirms the trade in the belief that the average condition of the new clip will be much heavier than last year, though there are conspicuous exceptions to this rule.

The situation in Texas is very badly complicated. Possibly the growers do not want to contract, preferring to wait for the sealed bid sales before selling.

There has been something like 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 pounds of wool contracted, but this is less than half of the available twelve-months' wool in that state, so that sealed bid time ought to be quite active. It is reported here that most of the growers are standing out for 45 cents for their best twelve-months' clips, but the eastern buyers are still able to pick up small clips here and there for less money, mainly at 41 to 42 cents or thereabouts.

The strength of the Territory wool situation is shown by the extreme prices reported paid for contracts in Montana and Wyoming about the first of the month. In Montana, Draper & Co. of Boston broke into new territory at Malta in the northern part of the state, and paid up to 42 cents and from that down to 40 cents. This is just under the top price level for the season, which has been 42½ cents. A new top price has been established at Rock Springs on the Union Pacific line in southern Wyoming, where S. Silberman & Sons of Chicago have just paid 40 cents for Sparks clip of approximately 120,000 pounds. This price is said to be 2 cents higher than any other contracts made in that section and 4 to 5 cents higher than opening contracting rates.

Oregon growers have been showing considerable strength of late. This strength has been particularly noticeable in the country tributary to Pendleton, where something like 1,000,000 pounds of unsold wool is being concentrated. Growers are refusing to contract, preferring to wait until shearing time or to consign their clips. Selling prices in that state recently have ranged from 32 to 35 cents, and in a few cases as high as 38 cents has been paid by some of the local mills.

The condition in the East is far from satisfactory, looking upon the situation as a whole. Manufacturers are obliged to figure very closely as goods prices are difficult to lift to the parity of the goods market. Scattering cases of advances being established in both men's and women's wear lines since the early opening are reported from time to time, but competition is very keen and buyers insistent that they can not pay more than last year's ruling figures. This is applic-

able to the market as a whole, but traders and wool dealers feel confident that they have the medium wool situation well in hand.

In some houses, word has been passed along to the salesmen not to sell any of the best three-eighths-blood staple wools at less than \$1.05 clean, which is 15 cents or more above last year's selling prices for this grade at this time. Quarter-blood grade was the first to start on the way to higher price levels. When it is figured that good French combing wools are very little advanced over last year's level the anomalous character of the present situation is apparent.

Nothing has yet been done in the way of establishing the market for the better fine grades, and the best that can be done is to quote some of the prices received at the end of the season for old wools. On this basis, the best fine and fine medium staple clips are worth approximately \$1.18 to \$1.20 clean. Unsold remnants of half-blood wool from last year's clip are largely in speculative hands, and the best lots are held pretty firmly at \$1.15 or a little below. Some very good wools of this grade are reported to have been sold recently at western points at \$1.12 to \$1.14 clean. French combing wools are quotable at \$1.10 to \$1.12 for choice lots and \$1.05 to \$1.08 for average.

Recent clearing sales have gone far in bringing stocks of Ohio and similar fleece wools to a position of very nearly bare boards. Late in April it was reported that something like a million pounds of Delaine wool had been sold at 17 cents in the grease. Previous sales had been made at 49 to 50 cents, everything depending upon the shrinkage. At 47 cents, wools shrinking 60 per cent would mean a clean basis slightly under current fine staple prices, while with the same shrinkage and a price of 49 to 50 cents, the clean cost would be in excess of anything reported for fine and fine medium staple this season.

Other grades of Ohio fleeces are not much changed from the quotations that were current a month ago. Best lots of quarter-blood combing, exceedingly scarce at that, have sold during the month at 53 cents, and it is figured that standard three-

eighths-blood is worth about as much. It may be that a good lot of half-blood would not bring quite so much as the medium combing grades, but not all holders of these wools would agree with that statement. Nominally, this grade is worth 51 to 52 cents. Above prices are for Ohio wools. Good Michigan medium wools are worth fully as much as Ohio, but Michigan fine wools do not bring as much as Ohios.

According to wool men of long experience in the Middle West, who for years have handled Ohio and Michigan fleeces, a very delicate and dangerous situation is being built up in these wools, where there is a possibility of serious losses being experienced in handling them, unless operators "watch their step." In Michigan, as high as 50 cents is reported paid for the best medium clips, and in Ohio the market is well on the way to the same high figure.

Owing to the fact that a tremendous percentage of this year's Territory wool clip is under contract, thus taking away from buyers who usually wait for shearing time before buying much of the usual opportunity, there is danger of a scramble developing for the free wools in the Middle West. Already there are indications that a flock of new and inexperienced buyers—inexperienced in the sense of being relatively unfamiliar with the handling of Ohio fleeces—is already to descend upon that state and contiguous territory. With prices in the country already above the parity of the Boston market, speculative boosting of prices in the country seems imminent.

Further strengthening of the pulled wool situation has been noted during the past month. There has been considerable activity in A and B super wools and substantial advances in prices are noted for eastern scoured pullings. B super wools of this description are now quoted at \$1.05 to \$1.07 for choice and 95 cents to \$1.02 for ordinary. Other super grades are quoted at \$1.20 to \$1.25 for choice AA wools and \$1.17 to \$1.20 for average, \$1.15 to \$1.20 for fine A super, \$1.08 to \$1.12 for A super and 85 to 90 cents for C super. The season for combing pulled wool is nearly at an end, but cur-



rent pullings are being turned over as they come in and at slowly advancing prices. Current quotations in the grease are 82 to 87 cents for fine combing, 85 cents for medium combing and 85 to 88 cents for B combing.

Those who have been looking for stabilization in foreign markets are finding some comfort from current happenings. Prominent among these is the final clearing sale held at Sydney May 1. In spite of the poor selection offered, with practically nothing suitable for America, prices held well up to the previous sale in that market. A sale is scheduled to be held at Brisbane May 8, with offerings of 40,000 bales.

The third series of the year of the London wool sales will open May 8, the available offerings being approximately 120,000 bales. Though Bradford has been making considerable bearish talk of late, and prices of tops have been marked off a little, many believe that competition will be so keen, especially from the Continent, that no serious slump in values will be noted.

H. A. Kidder

#### PENDLETON MILLS BUY COFFIN CLIP

Announcement has been made in the Daily News Record of a contract for the purchase of the wool clip of Coffin Bros., of Yakima, Washington, with the Pendleton Woolen Mills as the purchaser. The deal, which involves more than 250,000 pounds, was consummated by Stanley Coffin and Roy K. Bishop, head of the woolen company.

The price was not disclosed. A considerable portion of this and other clips being acquired by the Pendleton Woolen Mills for the company's 1928 requirements will be graded and scoured in the Western Wool Warehouse plant in Portland.

In February the Pendleton organization contracted about a million pounds of wool, about half the year's requirements. It already has under contract the Dobbin clip of Wallowa County, expected to total about 175,000 pounds.

#### 1927 RECORD OF MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE

The Minnesota Cooperative Wool Growers Association handled 614,816 pounds of wool for its 1,679 members during 1927. This represents an increase of 71,000 pounds over the volume of wool received in 1926. The average prices paid growers for their 1927 wools were as follows:

Half-blood and fine staple.....	37 cents
Three-eighths blood.....	37 3/4 cents
Quarter blood.....	37 1/2 cents
Low blood.....	35 cents
Dark wools and braid.....	33 1/3 cents

Advances of 70 per cent of the actual value of the wool received were made.

#### PROGRESSIVE WORK OF NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

The National Live Stock and Meat Board, under whose supervision the literature has been printed and the demonstrations conducted during the lamb campaign, has been in operation six years. The lamb promotion work is not a part of its regular program, but a special piece of work undertaken at the request of the National Wool Growers Association, whose funds, together with contributions from the lamb feeders of Colorado and Nebraska, have paid the expenses incurred.

The purpose for which the Meat Board was organized is "to protect and promote the interests of all branches of the livestock and meat industry," and its work is directed by the representatives of livestock growers' associations, the National Live Stock Exchange, the Institute of American Meat Packers, and organizations of meat retailers, who make up the personnel of the board.

The efforts of the board fall into two classes: First, the dissemination of information regarding meat, and second, investigational work. For the 1926-1927 period (the fiscal year of the board ends June 30) "30 Pertinent Points" in progress along these two general lines are announced. In connection with the first division of its work, 200,000 meat charts were supplied to high schools; 600,000 meat cook books and 565 textbooks on meat were sold; thirty-four colleges were furnished with quantities of the meat textbook; meat schools were held in thir-

ty-three eastern cities, to which thousands of housewives came; a meat story contest was conducted, with 13,500 high school girls participating; 238 radio talks were sponsored; meat articles were prepared and published in newspapers and the leading women's magazines; meat exhibits were placed in eighteen expositions; and a very large circulation of the literature prepared by the board was obtained through various organizations.

The second division of its work is carried on by the granting of fellowships to different universities and the publication of the results of their experiments in the medical journals throughout the country. The research work that is sponsored by the board is, of course, very vital to the industry. For so many years propaganda to the effect that meat was injurious to man and advertisements bringing to public attention various substitutes for meat have been running rampant, but with the organization of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, such propaganda and advertising are disappearing. The board has an ever watchful eye on this sort of thing and whenever an advertisement does appear containing statements detrimental to meat, steps are immediately taken to secure its withdrawal. The research work is bringing to light the great necessity for meat in the diet; in other words, furnishing the board and the public with facts that cannot be denied. In addition to this, the leading medical journals of the country have been publishing the results obtained through this investigational work.

A specific example of the results of the research work is that iron content of meat is greater than any other food, and in the treatment of anemia, meat, especially liver, is extremely valuable.

This statement, of course, does not include all of the details of the year's work, but it is sufficient to impress one with its far-reaching importance. The results of its efforts "have aroused national interest in meat as never before."

As is perhaps well known to readers of the Wool Grower, the National Live Stock and Meat Board is financed through the collection of five cents a car from all shippers of live stock and the same amount from the purchasers.

# News and Views of the Lamb Market

## CHICAGO

Prolongation of the era of good feeling in lamb market circles prompts cynical prediction that every lane has a turn and that something will happen eventually, if not sooner. Be that as it may, trans-Missouri feeders have been under no necessity to use red ink in the final accounting process and the great majority have made good money. No reply has emanated from the trade Sphinx as to the why and wherefore of sudden and somewhat inexplicable adaptability of heavy lamb to consumer needs, that being one of the surprising phases of the market.

Whatever the contributing causes or "coefficient equivalents" as a highbrow writer puts it, the late winter market has been the most satisfactory, especially from the viewpoint of the finisher, in trade history. Usually when the feeder is in self-congratulatory mood the killer is emitting a hullabaloo about minus profit sales, the retailer insists that he is vending lamb at a loss, and the ultimate consumer balks at traveling the price pace, but not a single squawk is heard in either quarter on this occasion. Even the arrogant chain store buyer has been as mute on the subject of prices as the proverbial clam. Dressed trade, with rare exceptions, has been active and the usual week-end plaint concerning bargain sales at the Atlantic seaboard has been omitted.

Doubtless a high pelt market and orderly marketing of the contents of the Colorado feed lots have been price supporting factors. Pork went up and beef has continued in the category of luxuries. Certainly several favorable factors have been operative, for while packer buyers tucked their bearskins away in cold storage subsequent to the January meeting in Chicago between killers and feeders, they have not acted entirely in a spirit of philanthropy. That they could have forced lower prices, and probably would, had their avowed winter buying policy not been changed subsequent to the January meeting, is not disputed in market circles, but they went right along, following each upturn, without balking; in fact,

## FEATURES OF THE CHICAGO MARKET IN APRIL

Narrowing the previously wide spread between woolled and shorn lambs.

Celerity with which weighty lambs were taken and short sorting of the whole crop.

Healthy dressed trade, an effective clearance being made weekly at the Atlantic seaboard, keeping shippers constantly in the market.

Prompt recovery from occasional reactions and steady progress toward higher price levels.

Light local receipts at Chicago and at eastern markets which accounted for ready absorption of Colorado's contingent.

Deficient condition of the advance guard of California's spring lamb crop, a large percentage going to feeders.

Marked scarcity of both fat sheep and lambs adapted to shearer's purposes.

Light sorting by killers who took the bulk of consignments straight, including weighty and low dressing stock.

Deterioration of woolled lambs late in the month, many Colorados dressing 43 to 45 per cent and few above 47 per cent.

Broad demand for 55- to 65-pound throwout lambs around \$14, such product being used for spring lamb substitutes.

The current high pelt market has been a prop under the price list and was responsible for the wide spread between woolled and shorn lambs until late in April when superior dressing capacity and condition pulled shorn values up. Shorn lambs sold lower than a year ago until late in April, owing to pelt allowances, while woolled lambs were higher.

they were responsible for rising prices on more than one occasion. The adage that the expected rarely happens has been abundantly verified in lamb trade this year. In January, feeders would have been cheered with assurance that they would wriggle through without loss; as it has happened their pockets are lined with velvet.

Had this been due to scarcity or even semi-scarcity, results would have been less gratifying; as it is producers have a hunch that the tide of consumption is turning in their favor. The campaign to popularize lamb has doubtless been effective. Slaughter, as indicated by Bureau of Animal Industry statistics, has been fully abreast of 1927, if not slightly in the lead of that period. During April ap-

proximate receipts at the ten principal markets figured 859,000 against 844,000 in April, 1927, and even during the last week of April when the spectacular advance of the season developed these markets handled 222,000 against 216,000 during the corresponding week last year, so that the scarcity theory must be discarded and the fact accepted that American consumers are in more receptive mood with respect to lamb. April receipts at Chicago were in excess of 250,000, or 25,000 in excess of the previous April, which represented a heavy direct movement from Denver, as local supplies were light and feed lots near Chicago delivered few, the bulk of the day's receipts frequently being Denver direct stuff. The fact that the major portion of supply was concentrated in a few areas west of the Missouri River doubtless had much to do with making a stable market, relieving it of intermittent gluts from farm feed lots in response to sharp upturns.

The last week of April developed a phenomenal market, Colorado woolled lambs going to \$18.25 and a band of shorn lambs to \$17.10. The dressed market advanced \$1 at Chicago and at New York winter-fed carcasses reached \$35; springers, \$39@40 per hundredweight. The advance of that week was 50 to 75 cents, at a period when the trade had confidently expected a reaction, yet buyers did not balk. Possibly spring lamb scarcity had an influence as the few Californias available were indifferent in condition, selling at \$16.50, while native springers were worth \$19. But whatever the underlying factors may have been, it was a good market, Chicago receiving 66,500 that week, against 56,500 the previous week, and 55,662 the same week of 1927. An increase of about 1000 head in shipper requirements may have exerted an influence, but did not fully account for a rise that was as much as \$1 per hundredweight on the best lightweight shorn lambs.

The first week of April \$17.25 stopped the best woolled lambs; on the last round \$18.25 bought the same kind. Shorn

lambs became a factor the second week when \$15.85 was the top. Later they acquired seasonal popularity, reaching \$17.10. Feeding and shearing lambs were scarce, values following those of fat lambs, and there was a sharp advance of about \$1 per hundredweight on the few fat sheep available.

At the beginning of April considerable pessimism was in evidence, a 25@50-cent break being registered on liberal receipts at Chicago. This situation changed the second week when both sheep and lambs gained 75 cents or more. The third week put on further gains for which marked improvement in dressed trade was responsible, and during the last week a miniature display of fireworks occurred, new high levels for the year being attained by everything on the list.

There were more big lambs, weighing 90 pounds or more, in the run than ever before, but average quality was not up to normal weight, indicating growth in feeders' hands at the expense of finish. Even overweight coarse lambs got action and stock weighing close up to 100 pounds figured in the top price. In view of the predominance of lambs, weighing 90 pounds up the fact that the product was absorbed without eliciting a protest is gratifying. Possibly scarcity of handyweights was responsible as the lamb eating public had no alternative but take heavy meat. The manner in which packers and their smaller competitors hopped to the daily crop most of the time at the prices was reassuring.

On the last round in April, 101-pound lambs sold at \$17.90; 88-pound stock at \$18. On that market practically all the heavy lambs sold within a range of \$17.50@18. Should another season develop discrimination against these lambs, an explanation will be necessary, even although none is available now. If consumers are accepting heavier meats without protest, one serious production problem will be at least partly solved. When finished Colorado lambs weighing 94 to 98 pounds sell at the top of the market there is ground for encouragement, if not assurance, on this score.

Yearlings and aged wethers almost disappeared from supply. A few two-year-old wethers in the fleece sold at \$13.25

and a handful of aged wethers at \$11. Supply of heavy mutton limited to a few ewes, was the lightest ever known, otherwise quotations would have been considerably lower, as demand for mutton is diminishing.

Early Arizona spring lambs sold at \$19.10 in Kansas City, Omaha reporting sales at \$18.75@19.25. The first consignment of California lambs to reach Chicago lacked condition, tops making \$16.50, weighing 65 to 73 pounds with a long sort which went to feeders at \$13.50@14.

Top wooled lambs at the end of April were \$1 per hundredweight higher than a year ago, \$2.25 higher than in 1926, and \$2 higher than in 1925. In 1924 the top was \$17 at the same period; in 1923 it was \$15.35; in 1922, \$16.65 and in 1921, \$11.40. This year's April top was the highest since 1920 when it reached \$20.10.

Dressed trade was healthy all through the month, following the live market responsively. Good light carcasses sold in Chicago at \$30@32; 42- to 55-pound averages at \$27@31. There was a broader outlet for 58- to 70-pound carcasses around or slightly under \$28. California springer carcasses sold at \$34 to \$40. Light ewe carcasses sold up to \$20. These prices coupled with pelt values indicated why killers wanted lambs.

At New York weighty lamb carcasses sold right up to lighter weights. Prime winter-fed carcasses realized as high as \$35 and prime springer carcasses \$39@40. Late in April the general eastern market on winter lambs was on a \$30 to \$34 basis.

The last day of April recorded the highest prices of the year. Handyweight Colorado lambs in the fleece sold at \$18.50, good medium weights reaching \$18.25. Shorn lambs sold at \$16.25@16.85 and they were top notchers. Two doubles of California spring lambs, 74 pounds, sold at \$18.75, and a double of 70-pounders at \$18.50.

J. E. Poole.

#### OMAHA

Prices for fed lambs reached the highest levels in over three years during April, and the highest for that month in over

six years. Despite the fact that receipts at about 179,000 head were the largest for any corresponding month since 1923, prices continued on the upgrade and closed \$1.00@1.25 above the end of March on wooled lambs, while shorn stock showed upturns of \$2.00@2.25.

Offsetting the increase shown in receipts, other factors combined to give salesmen the edge. Credits were substantially higher due to the increased value of wool over a year ago, and short supplies at eastern points, a more orderly distribution of receipts at the river markets, increased demand for lamb in the East with sharply higher dressed markets, all played their part in the advance.

While order business fell off somewhat the latter part of the month, this was more than made up for by the brisk way in which packers took hold of supplies of all weights, and local competition was brisk most of the time.

Prices generally during the last two months have been high enough to counteract the losses that Nebraska feeders had to take earlier in the season, but it is the Colorado men who have cashed in the heaviest on the phenomenal advance of recent weeks. Late in the month fed wooled lambs topped at \$18.00, highest since January, 1925, with the bulk at that time bringing \$17.25@17.90. During the first part a spread of \$16.25@16.75 caught most sales.

Receipts included a larger proportion of shorn lambs, although not so large as a year ago, and the market was featured by a narrowing in the spread between them and wooled lambs. All that came met good reception and, where the spread between the two classes a month ago was anywhere from \$2.50 to as much as \$3 in some instances, by the end of April it had dropped down to around \$2.

Top shorn lambs on the close hit \$16.00, with not much going under \$15.50. A month ago the extreme top was \$14.00, with a good many weighty lambs going down to \$13.25@13.50.

The first California springers arrived on the 14th and sold for \$18.35. In the late trade the best ones brought \$19.00, which was advanced to \$19.25 on the first of May, against an extreme top of \$18.15



on Californias in 1927. Those that have come so far have been of varying quality and it has only been in the last few days that enough were received to have a depressing influence on the price of old crop lambs.

The market has advanced so rapidly of late that it has reached the point of top-heaviness, and any increase in receipts from now on should mean lower trends. Prices on all classes were knocked off sharply under the first appreciable run of Californias during the last week and this can be taken as an indication of what packers may be expected to do if they have the opportunity.

The belief persists in some quarters, however, that the run of Californias will be short-lived as so many have been reported contracted, and while values on woolled lambs may show a seasonal break during the current month, salesmen generally expect shorn lambs to hold up in good shape as, with dressing percentages higher and with warmer weather, buyers have shown a preference for this class of stuff.

Bulk of the receipts consisted of fat lambs and business in feeders was on a mostly nominal basis but prices were quotably stronger on the rise in killers. Some California feeders were available the latter part of the month at \$14.50@15.00 but most of the stuff that went into feed lots was for shearing purposes.

Demand for shearers broadened out somewhat but was mainly from local feed lot owners, who are reported short of their usual numbers for this time of the year. Buyers at times competed with packers on the good fleshy lambs and, inasmuch as they were obliged to pay fat lamb prices, quotations showed as much as \$2 advance for the month. On the last day of April a top of \$17.50 was paid, with earlier sales ranging downwards to \$16.00 and thin lambs beneath this figure. Total shipments into feed lots were 17,068 head, which compared favorably with former years.

Scarcity of supplies featured the trade in aged sheep and values worked up to levels around \$1 higher than those in force the latter part of March. Top on woolled ewes at \$11 was likewise the highest in over three years. Both woolled and

shorn stock met good demand from all interests. The latter made up bulk of the supply in the late trade, with \$9.50 paid freely for good ones with a few selling above this. As usual, not enough was done in feeding or breeding stock to make comparisons.

K. H. Kittoe.

#### KANSAS CITY

April put a fitting climax on two months of rising prices for lambs and brought the highest quotations of the past seven years. Trade not only seemed to expand with rising prices, but at no time during the month was there any factor that developed to bring depression of

#### LAMB DEMAND AND FEEDERS' ATTITUDE

The past three months have developed some important facts that winter feeders, for that matter producers as well, should study, and duplicate if possible in coming years. The publicity campaign in behalf of dressed lamb, and a determination on the part of feeders to keep supplies well distributed as to market, as well as days in the week, were big features in the high prices. Of the three great meat commodities, beef, pork and lamb, the latter has a greater possibility of being increased simply because its tonnage is the smallest and there are many people in the United States who seldom, if ever, use it. Everyone could be brought to use ovine meat in some form at least occasionally. If this were brought about the supply of fat lambs required to meet the demand would have to be doubled. Possibilities for lamb production in the United States have not been approached, neither has the potential field of the dressed lamb outlet been fairly explored. The Atlantic and Pacific coast states are relatively large users of dressed lambs but the east central and central western, also southeastern states are a wide field in which to encourage outlet.

Judging from the large number of lambs under contract for fall delivery, high prices are anticipated for September to November delivery, especially for feeding classes. Feeders in many localities are protesting the way speculators have been able to make a good profit by operating between the actual producer and feeder. Some big feeders are claiming that they will not feed lambs this coming winter unless they can be bought at lower prices than last fall. On the basis of prevailing contract prices this cannot be done. Feeders east of the Missouri River are figuring on handling more lambs than last winter and they will be large buyers in August and later at the river markets.

more than a temporary character. Normally an advance similar to that which occurred from February 15 to April 1 could be expected to develop a choppy market in the following thirty days, but instead the upward trend was continued. At the extreme high point in April, prices were \$5.00 higher than the low point in January and \$1.25 above the close of March. On the April close supplies showed a far different assortment than at the outset of the month. Winter-fed wool lambs were plentiful at the beginning of the month, but on the close spring and shorn lambs predominated and only a few wool lambs were shown.

April started with winter-fed lambs in fleece selling up to \$16.85 and advanced to \$17 by the 11th. Slight fluctuations occurred between then and April 19 when the top was boosted to \$17.25 and by the 25th the top reached \$18. From then on not enough wool lambs were offered to test values fairly.

Shorn lambs were more plentiful in the latter part of the month than wool lambs. Prices for them were fully \$1 higher than in March. On the close some 2000 sold at \$15.75 to \$15.90. This was a much higher level than had been anticipated a few weeks previously, but in many instances shearing became necessary because weight had become excessive and wool stringy.

At the outset of May there are fewer than 90,000 fed lambs in all the important areas, a supply that is insufficient to make a three days' supply at the important markets.

Doubtless the winter feeder has seen the value of sending supplies to all the principal markets instead of trying to distribute them to three points, two of which are primary supply sources for the third. If the same practice could be observed in shipments of range lambs during the coming season the benefits would be as great as they have been during the past feeding season.

During the month spring lambs reached market in fairly liberal volume. High prices were the drawing factor. At the extreme high point a few native springs reached \$21 and Arizona and California springs sold up to \$19.25. Arizonas made up the bulk of the supply, in round figures

some 30,000 being reported. The final prices were \$18.50 to \$19.10. It will be the middle of June or later before native spring lambs are available in appreciable numbers. The season is late and pastures have been rather backward. California and Idaho early lambs can probably be disposed of before native springs are available. However, Tennessee and Virginia lambs will begin to be offered freely on eastern markets this month and probably be in sufficient supply to care for much of the seaboard demand.

Shorn ewes at \$8.25 to \$9, a few wool ewes at \$9.25 to \$10, and shorn Texas wethers ranging from two years old and up to aged stock, at \$9.25 to \$11.50, made up the large part of the month's sheep supply. In volume it was much below normal, but was entirely in keeping with the ewe lamb basis on which producers now operate. In 1925, of all the ovine stock slaughtered under federal inspection 89 per cent were lambs. In 1926 lambs made up 90.4 per cent of slaughter and in 1927 91.9 per cent. In January lamb slaughter made up 93.36 per cent.

April sheep receipts were 153,043 compared with 125,516 in the same month last year and an April average of about 130,000. Receipts for the year this far were 546,444, compared with 443,627 in the first four months last year.

C. M. Pipkin.

#### ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for April were approximately 154,300. This was 10,000 under last month, but 9,000 more than the same month a year ago. The lamb market continued on its upward trend and finished the month \$1.00@1.25 higher; aged sheep also show about the same advance. The month opened with best wool lambs at \$16.75, and closed at \$17.90. The low top for the month was \$16.60, and it never went below \$17.25 during the last ten days. Spring lambs were scarce, the few lots of natives selling \$18.50@19.10, and Arizonas and Californias, \$17.50@19.10. Clipped lambs showed more advance than woolskins; best on the close sold at \$15.85 against \$14.00 a month ago. Odd lots of feeders sold up to \$16.50 on late days and shearers reached \$17.50. Wool ewes on the close were selling \$10.00@

10.50 and clips up to \$9.00; wool wethers up to \$13.25; clips \$11.50; wool yearlings, \$15.00@16.00, and clips, \$14.00.

H. H. Madden

#### MOST LAMBS BORN IN SPRING— YET LAMB IS AVAILABLE ALL THE YEAR

Under the above title the United States Department of Agriculture issued the following statement for release on April 17:

Although 75 per cent of the lambs raised in the United States are born in March, April, and May, fresh lamb reaches the market in steady supply throughout the year. This is accomplished in spite of the fact that little of it reaches the status of mutton. Forty years ago very little lamb was obtainable. Sheep were then usually slaughtered at from five to eight years of age, after considerable service in wool production. Today, instead of getting heavy mutton of uncertain age and flavor and carrying much fat, the housewife gets genuine lamb from animals ranging from four to twelve months old, mostly of mutton-type breeds or crosses between wool and mutton types. In other words the sheep industry of today is largely on a lamb rather than a mutton basis.

How a steady market supply of lamb is maintained despite the fact that most lambs are born in the spring is explained by the United States Department of Agriculture. Some lambs, of course, are born in the late fall and early winter. These begin to arrive on the market in the early spring, and are known in the trade as genuine "spring lamb." Some of the extremely early ones get special attention and are marketed as hot-house lambs. However, this part of the supply is only a small fraction of the year's total, the main bulk of it coming, as already mentioned, from the lambs born in March, April, and May and which are marketed from June to November. About half of the year's market receipts reach market from August to November. If they were all slaughtered immediately, a year-round supply of lamb to the consumer would be impossible.

But they are not all slaughtered immediately. Fortunately for the consumer, and also for the producer because crowding of consumption depresses prices, many of the lambs shipped to central markets in the summer and fall are taken back to the country to be fattened on grain, alfalfa and other feeds. They are returned to market for slaughter in the winter and early spring before the next crop of lambs begins to arrive on the market. In this way the lamb feeders in the irrigated districts of Colorado and Nebraska and in the Corn Belt play a considerable part in equalizing the movement of lamb into consumption throughout the year.

It is interesting to note that 65 per cent of the Nation's lamb crop is raised in thirteen western states under open-range conditions. Lambs so raised are known to the trade as "westerns." California sends the earliest batches to market in the spring. Those from the Rocky Mountain region usually arrive later, many of them not until fall, when they are available for the feeder for fattening for winter and early spring markets. Lambs raised from small farm flocks in the Corn Belt and in the eastern half of the country are usually sold

for slaughter as soon as they reach desirable weights. This is because the possibility of parasitic infection makes them unsatisfactory for fattening purposes. In short, the natural spreading of supplies from various sections, throughout the marketing period, is a great assistance to the sheepmen in achieving orderly marketing.

Lambs sold for slaughter bring United States producers more than \$100,000,000 annually. Fifty per cent of the inspected slaughter, which represents about 500 million pounds of meat, is consumed east of Ohio and north of the Potomac River, New York City taking almost a third of the supply. Fifteen per cent of the supply is consumed in the three Pacific Coast States. The remaining percentage is distributed throughout the country. When the per capita consumption of lamb in the Middle West and the South equals that of the East and the Pacific slope, the sheep industry will have to raise a great many more lambs.

#### OREGON SHEEP AND GOAT OWN- ER'S DIRECTORY AND USE BOOK

A combination directory and compendium of information on sheep and goat raising for the Oregon sheep and goat owners has recently been compiled and circulated by the State Live Stock Sanitary Board of that state. The directory contains some 6000 or more names, with the farm-flock owners and the range operators listed separately by counties. The compendium includes a general article on sheep growing in Oregon; results of lamb feeding experiments; data on cost studies in Idaho and Oregon; a record of the wool improvement work in the state through culling; a discussion of sheep diseases, their prevention and treatment; and a description of some of the most prevalent poisonous plants.

The live stock board was created fifteen years ago under an appropriation of \$50,000 for its biennial maintenance, and the cost of handling the work has remained practically at the same level. The appropriation is used largely in the payment of salaries of veterinarians, office expense, and the payment of indemnities for animals ordered destroyed on account of incurable infectious diseases.

The members of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, nine in all, serve without pay. K. G. Warner, president of the Oregon Wool Growers Association is one of its members. Dr. W. H. Lytle, secretary of the board and state veterinarian, is largely responsible for the publication of the directory and use book.

# LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

The Tomboy Sanitarium,  
May, 1928.

Dear Ern:

It was sure one big relief when we got out of all that law business with its lawyers, witnesses, juries, and long tedious hours in court. But we pulled through with a whole skin and are now sitting pretty. Everything on the ranch is doing fine, the goats are kidding one hundred percent, and Doc is booked six months ahead with patients eager for his goat-gland treatment.

Which reminds me, Ern, that I've been wanting to tell you about a patient we've got here, a eighteen carat dame who's had Doc up in the air ever since she landed at the sanitarium. Her name is Mrs. Anson Marble Farleigh, and she's good looking and has plenty of cash on hand. She's one patient that had Doc up a tree. He just couldn't locate her trouble. Her heart is as strong as a wooden pump, she's got a dandy air pressure—that's where they wrap a inner tube around your arm and pump it full of air—and she's still related to her original appendix. Doc finally had her Xrayed and the picture shows only one slight flaw in the terminal of her vertebrae where they join her cerebral cupola. I'm taking this down from her chart, Ern, and you want to remember that this is strictly between you and me. Doc would just about chew my head off if he knowed that I had discussed the ailments of one of his patients. He wouldn't any more tell you what was wrong with a patient of his than he would fly. You couldn't drag one word out of him if you'd boil him in oil over a slow fire.

It may be that Mrs. Anson's ailment is partly mental. She's had a lot of grief. Her first husband got killed in a automobile wreck, but left her a life insurance that paid three ways from breakfast. Then she married a party who was heavily interested in oil wells and railroads, thinking that now she'd forget that other catastrophe and live happily thereafter. But this last husband wasn't inclined to live a monogamous life, and when she discov-

ered his failing she cut the ties that bound her and got a divorce. The judge gave her a hundred thousand dollars as a balm to sooth her wounded heart, and now she's trying again to forget. But these misfortunes have left a deep imprint on the soul fibre of her, and she don't seem to be able to recuperate from the effects. Her health has become impaired. Her appetite was the first to go, and she developed a melancholy attitude towards a bill of fare that throws a feeling of gloom over the entire kitchen staff. She's got to order two or three meals before she can nibble enough food to keep her going till the next feed. Phantastically fastidious, is what you'd say in her case. Ern, you've got to have a bank account that you can approach with a shovel before you can have a complaint like that in public. Then, to make matters worse, she can't sleep. She gets drowsy in the daytime and snoozes around quite a bit in easy chairs and on overstuffed davenports, but when it comes night and time to go to bed she can't close her eyes, and, to add to her misery, she is broadening out so much that she's getting entirely too plump for her height. You read that last statement over again, Ern, and you'll begin to realize what you get for your money when you stop at the Tomboy Sanitarium.

She's a plumb sociable being though, nothing stuck up about her at all that way, and likes to get a fellow cornered in a sofa and put in a hour or two in conversation. Which ain't a bad pastime when you haven't got anything else to do. Her hair is wavy-like and a reddish chestnut shade. And she's got nice gray eyes. You'd loose her good opinion if you was to guess her at more than thirty, though I'd say off-hand that you'd be safe up to thirty-four. She ain't got a wrinkle in her neck though, and, as I said before, you'd have to lay her under the Xray to find anything wrong with her. The main trouble, Ern, as I diagnose it, is that she ain't got a thing in the world to do. If she'd get out and walk off about twenty pounds of her fat it's my guess that she'd be able to eat plain food and sleep nights.

I've got a scheme, Ern, and it may work.

I aim to ask her how would she like to ride up to the Elk Summit. That's fifteen miles, which makes it a thirty mile ride by the time we get back. Not much of a ride, Ern, but I'll bet my last pair of socks that when she hits the feathers that night she'll sleep. I'll waylay her when she comes downstairs for lunch. They're opening the dining room doors right now, so I'll finish this later—

My scheme worked! The lady fell for it like a ton of lead. She wanted to know could we drive up there in a car, and when I told her that there was nothing but a cowtrail and that we'd have to go hoss back she grew sort of pensive and I thought for a minute she was going to weaken. But when I went on and said that no white woman had ever been to the top of Elk Summit her enthusiasm flared high. Her eyes snapped like I'd touched a button, and she clapped her hands with joy. She's 'phoned into town for a fifty dollar riding outfit, pants and a coat like they wear on the bridle paths in the big cities.

I done picked out a good hoss for her, a stocky built roan with good wind and dependable on a mountain trail. They used him to pack salt in a sheep outfit last summer, so he's used to carrying a load. I never ride him myself because he's a little rough in his gait, but he's gentle and safe.

Of course I told Doc about our trip, and he seemed pleased to think I'd go to so much trouble to humor the whims of our guests. But I doubt whether he heard just what I said, for his mind was brooding over the probable contents of a old gent's gall bladder that he expects to break into in the morning. I'm taking along a box of crackers and some sardines. That's in case Mrs. A. gets hungry on me on the way. Well, Ern, I've got to go and corral our hosses. We leave in the morning and I want to get a early start.

If your system ever gets out of whack, Ern, you write me the symptoms and I'll send you something to take out the kinks. I've been watching Doc quite a bit and can handle any ordinary case like yours'd probably be. You can fix a man up purty



easy, but I wouldn't tackle a woman, they're too complicated.

Well, I've got to close. I'll write and tell you later how Mrs. A. enjoyed her trip.

Your friend and pal,  
Richard A. Wormwood.

## LINCOLNS

We have for sale:

30 stud rams—one and two-year olds  
100 range rams—one and two-year olds  
500 ram lambs  
100 young ewes

For full particulars write or wire

**R. S. ROBSON & SON**

Denfield, Ont., Canada  
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**SOLANO CORRIEDALE RANCH**  
R. W. JICKLING—Elmira, Calif.

## Our 1927 Offerings Are Completely Sold Except

**100 Lincoln-Rambouillet  
Ewe Lambs**

We have a very choice lot  
of young Rambouillet  
Rams coming on for the  
1928 trade.

*If you like Rambouillets with fine,  
white, crimped wool, good bone, legs  
set well apart, and splendid confor-  
mation—*

*We Grow That Kind*

**Day Farms Company**  
PAROWAN, UTAH

## NEW MEXICO GRAZING LAND ASSESSMENTS

Assessments on grazing lands in New Mexico are now made in accordance with their actual carrying capacity. Such an arrangement was secured through the efforts of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association and the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Raisers Association, committees from these organizations having met with the State Tax Commission and county assessors and commissioners last fall. The lands are divided into four groups and valued at \$2.00, \$1.50, \$1.00 and 75 cents an acre. The latter figure is for waste lands over the state. District No. 1, valued at \$2.00 an acre, includes the counties of Colfax, Union, Curry, Lea and Roosevelt. The valuation of \$1.50 an acre applies to grazing lands in the counties of Chaves, Harding, Mora, De Baca, Guadalupe, Lincoln, Otero, Quay, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, Grant, Hidalgo and Sierra. District 3, in which the valuation is \$1.00 an acre, embraces the counties of Bernalillo, Catron, Dona Ana, Luna, McKinley, Sandoval, San Juan, Socorro, Valencia, Eddy and Torrance.

## LAMB ADVERTISING CONTINUES

Lamb is still receiving a lot of fine advertising throughout the country, both east and west. Particularly interesting are some advertisements that have appeared in both New York and Chicago dailies over the name of the Pennsylvania Railroad. One of these features the Grilled English Lamb Chop Pennsylvania, and the phrasing of the copy is so excellent that it is easy to understand how even the most prejudiced should be induced to ride that line just to have such a chop. This advertisement forms a part of a campaign that has been put on by the Pennsylvania Railroad to promote lamb consumption. A recent report states that on its western lines there has been an increase of 40 per cent of lamb eaten by its patrons over a similar period of 1927.

The Woodward Bennett Packing Company of Los Angeles also has used its space in the Los Angeles Times to set forth the merits of lamb, especially roasts of different kinds.

## AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY (Continued from page 16)

first and at that time there was very good feed. The crop is estimated to have been 110 per cent.

Machine shearers received 17½ cents per head with board, or 20 cents without board; blade shearers, board included, were paid 15 cents a head.

Sales of shorn yearlings have been consummated at \$12 a head.

Edward Brocher

## Chico

Most of April was cloudy, with a few showers and some north wind. In this locality nearly everybody lambs around the first of January, a few as early as December first. At that time the feed was very poor in the valley and only fair in the hills. Now, April 25, it is 100 per cent, and the ewes and lambs are doing fine. A few bands had foot rot, but it is nearly all cleaned up.

Before shearing, old ewes sold from \$12.50 to \$15, while young ones reached \$18 and \$20, that is for ewes and lambs. I have not heard of any sales since shearing.

Machine shearers have received 17 cents with board and 18 cents without; blade shearers have been paid 13 cents and board.

F. S. Boucher

## NEVADA

April averaged rather cold, retarding the early growth of spring ranges to a certain extent, though forage has remained plentiful, and cattle and sheep are in good to excellent shape. The week ending May 4th was warmer and grasses made a good growth. Some suffering was reported among shorn sheep and young lambs though no important losses occurred in any section. Shearing and lambing are practically over, the yield of wool being satisfactory, and of lambs being above normal. Some water holes are disappearing in the southern section, where a good rain would help. Grazing areas are somewhat restricted.

## UTAH

Cold weather retarded the growth of range grasses and browse rather seriously and moisture was lacking in many sec-

tions, particularly in the middle and southern portions. However, live stock held their own pretty well, and shearing and some early lambing progressed with favorable results generally. A strong impetus to range growth came at the end of the month and the beginning of May, with the turn to warmer weather. It is considered by some reporters that the delayed spring season should result in a good early summer range, hence the outlook is not unfavorable.

#### Woodruff

Range lambing will commence here about May 5. The early lambing operations were quite successful, and the lambs are in fairly good condition at this time (April 26). The first year lambing ewes did not give as much milk as last year, but I think they will come along just fine now.

Feed conditions are poor, after a period of stormy and cold weather. The last few days, however, have been more like spring.

The rate to be paid for machine shearers is 12½ cents per head with board and 14 cents without board.

Frank U. Frazier

#### COLORADO

The weather has been colder than usual, especially over the lower areas of eastern and western counties. Some losses of lambs occurred in western counties, and shearing operators were hindered. Warmer weather came at the end of April and the beginning of May, forcing range grasses and favoring shearing and lambing, and the growth of meadows. Live stock are in good to excellent condition over the state. Ranges need rain over all of the lower areas, east and west of the main range.

#### Leander

Spring here has been very backward, although it has commenced to warm up a little now, the early part of May.

Lambing starts about May 5. No lambing, however, is done on the range; we either lamb on alfalfa hay or meadows. Ewes that have lambed on alfalfa hay have averaged better than 100 per cent. I have only lambled one bunch of 1,000 head. There were forty dry ewes, 225 pairs of twins, and four sets of triplets (all living). The ewes are in good

condition in this section and we should have the largest lamb crop in years. Most of the lambs have been contracted at \$11.50 to \$11.75 per hundredweight.

Machine shearing is to be done at 12½ cents per head with board, while blade shearers will receive ten cents, with board.

N. C. Gilbreath.

#### Grand Junction

About a million pounds of wool is under contract here at prices ranging from 31 to 33 cents. I do not know the shrinkage of this wool, but most of it is from crossbred ewes. We rarely get what our wool is worth. I do not offer a remedy, but something should be done, on a large scale, I think. The organization of very large pools is probably the right method, yet each clip should sell on its merits.

Our early spring weather was very good until April 1; since then it has been cold and backward and grass conditions are not very promising. Winter range feed was only fair, lack of moisture being the worst feature. Possibly five per cent of the sheep are fed hay during the winter months, but most of the sheepmen feed cake or corn on the range. Alfalfa hay has been worth \$10 a ton in the stack.

Coyotes are increasing. We need more funds, more hunters and trappers, and more thorough cooperation between the government and the stockmen.

A. B.

#### LaJara

I am always an interested reader of "Around the Range Country" and hereby contribute my bit.

We have had a wonderful winter in the San Luis Valley—very little snow. Most of the sheep have grazed all winter on open range—and where they were fed some corn, they are fat. The ewes generally are in excellent shape, and indications are there will be a large lamb crop. A few flocks were lambed in February and March with a large percentage of lambs saved. Most of the range men lamb here in May.

Practically all of the wool here has been contracted at from 33 to 35 cents. Some lambs were also contracted early at \$10.50 a hundred, but the larger part of them were contracted at \$11.50, and a few sales were as high as 12 cents.

There are very few ewes for sale, but

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some have brought around \$13.50, and one choice small bunch sold for \$15.50 a head.

Alfalfa hay could be bought early in the season for \$6 to \$8 in the stack, but during the winter there was a large ship-

ping demand and now hay is scarce and can be sold readily at \$13 a ton in the stack. However, there is plenty to care for all stock.

I have been finishing my own lambs on barley and alfalfa raised on my ranch. This year I fed my lambs 93 days and was on the Denver market February 13. I got an even 25 pounds' gain in the 93 days. I made a net profit above feed costs of \$3.14 per head.

We have plenty of coyotes, but a number of government hunters are at work in the Valley with good results.

E. E. Hutchinson

#### Hotchkiss

Weather during April has been very variable and cooler than usual. The condition of the spring range is very poor owing to the backward spring, and the outlook for spring range lambing is not encouraging. Snow still lies on the spring lambing range. Early lambs are in danger of being stunted.

A few sales of old ewes with lamb at foot have been made at \$12 per head.

Reports from early lambing operations indicate that the number of lambs raised is about 90 per cent of last year's number.

Thirteen cents with board is the rate of pay for shearers.

Clair Hotchkiss

#### ARIZONA

Cold weather prevailed and range growth was slow. Rain was plentiful much of the time in eastern and some northern counties, though the rest of the state suffered from drought and ranges and live stock showed an appreciable deterioration. A great deal of wind served to accentuate the drought. Ranges were becoming better at the higher elevations at the beginning of May. Live stock and ranges continue good in the Grand Canyon district. Water is needed in the Williams and Holbrook sections; but live stock and range are good at Prescott.

#### NEW MEXICO

This was a cold, backward spring month over the state generally, though most of the time moisture met the needs of the slow growing grasses and meadows. By the first of May much of the state had become in need of rain, which came on May 2nd and 3rd in fairly good amounts, improving the range outlook.

Live stock are mostly in fairly good shape. Pastures and live stock have been poor at Servilleta; and pastures have been poor at Bluewater. Ranges have been very slow at Roswell; and they need moisture at El Paso. Ranges and pastures are rather poor at Quemado.

#### Aztec

Feed conditions are not good. We need moisture to bring the grasses along; there is very little hay left and it is selling at \$20 a ton in the stack. We are also paying \$2.55 a hundred for corn.

Lambing has not commenced here yet, but there is about ten or fifteen per cent more ewes to lamb than a year ago. Practically all of the lambs have been contracted, the feeders going at \$11.35 to \$11.50 per hundredweight.

There have been no transactions in ewes recently. The wool clip has been contracted at from 30¼ to 33¼ cents.

Spring weather has been bad. The first part of March was pleasant, but then cold winds started, and up to the present (April 14) conditions have been poor.

J. F. Ridenour

#### Artesia

We have had the most unusual and harmful lambing weather that we have had in years. Besides high winds and dust storms we have had freezing weather and two snowstorms since April 1st.

There is not much pasture in the country as a drought of last summer left it in poor condition for this spring and the nights have been so cold that what little moisture we have had has not done much good. In spite of this most sheep wintered well with the aid of cake. Alfalfa hay is \$25 to \$27 a ton and cake is \$60.

The date for the commencement of lambing is around the first of April, although a few sheepmen lamb in February. As lambing is not complete yet, it is difficult to estimate the yield. So many lambs have been lost on account of the freezing weather and other conditions that the sheepmen themselves do not know what the percentage will be until they mark up. However, I have heard reports as low as 40 per cent and as high as 90, but I think that the average will be about 75 per cent.

Most of the sheepmen have contracted

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to have their sheep sheared at 12½ cents without board. There are no blade shearers in this country.

One bunch of yearling ewes of good grade sold for \$11 out of the shearing pen. I have also heard of several other lots for sale at this price.

At the present time (May 2) we have been having showers which are pretty general in character and from reports, the entire southeastern part of the state has been benefited. These showers coupled with the good prices at which most sheepmen contracted their lambs and wool should more than offset any loss in lambing.

B. F.

#### Roswell

We have had bad weather during the last three or four weeks. While feed conditions have not been very good, we have prospects for good range now, as we have had some very good rains of late.

Lambing commenced the middle of April; it is too early to make a statement as to the results, but I do not believe the yield will be as high as it was a year ago.

Mart Corn.

#### WESTERN TEXAS

Cold, inclement weather with more or less snow was good for ranges later, but resulted in slow current growth. Live stock mostly held their own, however, and are in fairly good shape. Ranges are fair to good. Rain is needed over much of this territory, to bring spring ranges on properly, though showers in right early May helped a little. A slight loss of calves and lambs occurred during the worst snowstorms early in the month.

#### Stephenville

The weather in this section since April first has been very backward—very typical for March, but very unusual for April. The rainfall has been light, but the range is in fine condition. We do need a good rain, however.

Lambing started March 1st. The crop is just about the same as it was last year.

We do not handle anything but lambs. Up to the present we have contracted 3,000 lambs and expect 5,000 for fall delivery.

We have sold some yearling ewes at

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Machine shearers get 10 cents per head with board.

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By R. Chandler

**Leander**

Very good conditions have attended the lambing so far this year. Some of the lambing commences around the first of March and some about April 1st. The feed has been fine for the ewes.

All of the shearing in this district is done by blade shearers; this year the rate has been 10 cents a head with board.

I have not heard of any sales of ewes recently.

W. L. Coe

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC.,  
REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF  
CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER,  
published monthly at Salt Lake City, Utah, for  
April 1, 1928.

County of Salt Lake )

State of Utah ) ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared F. R. Marshall, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the National Wool Grower and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in Section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, National Wool Growers Assn. Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Editor, F. R. Marshall, 509 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Managing Editor, None.

Business Manager, F. R. Marshall, 509 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. That the owner is:

National Wool Growers Association, an unincorporated body, of Salt Lake City, Utah (F. J. Hagenbarth, president, and F. R. Marshall, secretary) and thirteen state wool growers' associations, all unincorporated.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are:

None.

F. R. MARSHALL,

Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of April, 1928.

C. W. COLLINS,

Notary Public.

(My commission expires May 10, 1929.)

Residing at Salt Lake City, Utah.  
(SEAL)

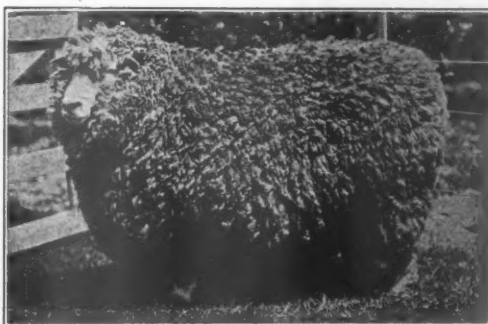
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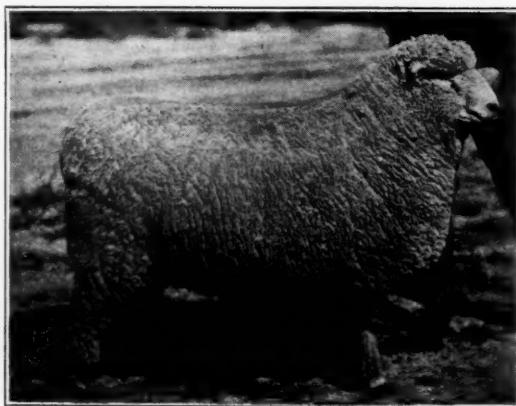
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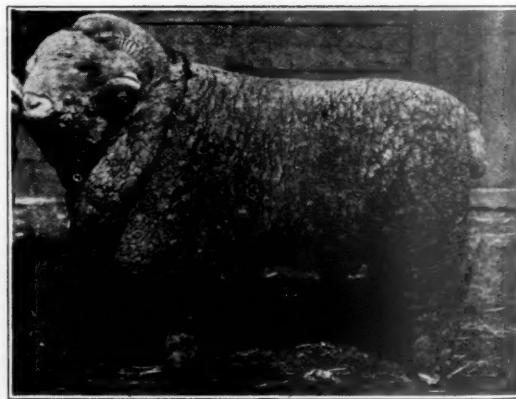
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